

Satellite launched, hits 'difficulties'

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — A \$270 million communications satellite was launched into orbit Wednesday but ran into difficulties in the second orbit to strike the Western space business in less than a month. Mission controllers struggled to establish proper contact with the satellite, designed to provide telephone and television communications for more than 100 countries. The satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard a powerful U.S. Titan rocket owned by the Martin Marietta Corp at 6:52 a.m. (11:52 GMT). A spokesman said the satellite was "encountering difficulties" and that more information would be made available later. Initial officials said some contact had been made with the orbiting craft and were reluctant to declare the mission lost. It was a setback in the fledgling U.S. private satellite-launching business established after the destruction of the space shuttle Challenger four years ago. Western Europe's thriving space business, led by the French, was joined Feb. 22 when its Ariane 4 rocket exploded 161 seconds after launch from the French space centre at Kourou, French Guiana.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي

Iraq, Syria 'reject water plan'

ANKARA (R) — Syria and Iraq have rejected a Turkish plan dealing with the use of water from two major rivers in the area, Turkish Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday. Ankara's plan for sharing waters from the Euphrates and the Tigris, which start in Turkey, was discussed by experts from the three countries who ended a five-day meeting in the Turkish capital Monday, they said. Earlier this year Turkey diverted the Euphrates for a month to fill a new dam, causing tension in the area with the two neighbours whose agriculture and irrigation largely depend on the river. The sources said Syria and Iraq experts insisted on a system under which the supplies would be shared on the basis of each country's water needs. "But the added figures exceed the total potentials of the whole basin. We hit a deadlock," one said. Under Ankara's plan the three countries would study ways of reducing water wastage by improved irrigation methods, the source said.

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Qasem, Waldegrave discuss Mideast

LONDON (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Wednesday discussed questions related to the situation in the Middle East at a meeting with British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave. The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) response to the peace efforts and reviewed dangers threatening prospects for peace in the region resulting from the continued immigration of Soviet Jews who settle in the occupied lands. The two sides stressed the need for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 465 on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab lands, and reaffirmed that settlements in Arab territories are illegal. Qasem arrived here from Tunis after attending the Arab League Council's 93rd meeting, which discussed developments in the Palestine issue and the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine among other issues.

E. German conservative leader quits

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German conservative leader Wolfgang Schnur, accused of spying for the former East German security police, resigned Wednesday, just four days before the country's first democratic election. His withdrawal as head of the Democratic Awakening Party dealt a severe blow to the three-party Conservative Alliance for Germany backed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Schnur, who had been tipped as a possible prime minister, issued a statement which for the first time stopped short of denying that he had been an informer for the hated Stasi security police.

Thatcher appoints new minister

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Wednesday named David Hunt, a junior minister in charge of an unpopular new local tax, as the next Welsh secretary, a promotion to her 22-member cabinet. Hunt, 47, will replace Welsh Secretary Peter Walker by mid-June, a statement from Thatcher's office said. Hunt now is the environment minister, a post that does not have cabinet rank. Walker, one of only three members of Thatcher's original 1979 cabinet still in office, announced March 4 that he planned to resign this summer, saying he wants to spend more time with his family. His announcement came weeks after Employment Secretary Norman Fowler resigned, also citing family reasons.

Aden says it has no political prisoners

ADEN (R) — A South Yemeni official said his country was holding no political prisoners and voiced readiness to receive a human rights group to confirm it. "The authorities will allow... a human rights group to visit any place to confirm there are no political prisoners," Deputy Secretary General of the Yemen Socialist Party Salim Saleh Mohammad said. The official's remarks, to a group of South Yemeni women who paraded in Aden last Monday demanding freedom for political prisoners they claimed had been held since 1968, were published in the daily newspaper, October 14, on Wednesday.

Mongolian unions challenge party

ULAN BATOR (R) — Mongolia's powerful trade unions threatened Wednesday to divorce themselves from the country's beleaguered Communist Party in what officials and diplomats said was a serious blow to the party's weakening grip on power. The challenge was laid down as the party's 240 central committee members met for a third day and prepared for a late-night vote expected to accept the resignation of their leader, Zhambyn Batmunkh, and the seven-man politburo.

Gorbachev unopposed for powerful presidency

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Legislators narrowly agreed Wednesday that they, and not the Soviet people, will elect the nation's new, powerful president, and Mikhail S. Gorbachev was put forth as the only candidate. The decision to hold the emergency election in the Congress of People's Deputies, the country's parliament, came after a respected scholar warned that a nationwide campaign would lead to civil war.

Gorbachev was nominated for the post by the Communist Party Central Committee, which met hurriedly during a break in the session, the TASS news agency said.

Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov and Interior Minister Vadim A. Bakatin were nominated as the only two other candidates by a group calling itself "Soyuz," or

"Union," opposed to efforts by Soviet republics to break away. Buttho withdrew their names.

Balloting was to begin later Wednesday night in the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses, and results were expected Thursday morning (local time). Gorbachev would only need a simple majority — 50 per cent plus one vote — to win.

Although uncontested, Gorbachev could still be defeated if less than 50 per cent of the 2,250 congress members participate in the vote or if the majority of those voting cross his name off the ballot. That was highly unlikely, however. On Tuesday, Gorbachev was able to push through some of his more unpopular proposals by receiving a two-thirds majority of the congress.

Despite the virtual guarantee that Gorbachev would be elected president no matter what his competition, several legislators took the floor to say they were appalled the congress could not come up with a viable alternative. The vote rejecting a bid by radicals for national elections to choose the country's president was 1,542 to 368, with 76 abstentions.

Earlier Gorbachev had accused his opponents of deliberately holding up the crucial vote. "This is clearly an attempt to lead parliament astray," a testy Gorbachev had told deputies as a host of amendments aimed at trimming the new presidential powers stalled progress at the congress.

One amendment that got the necessary two-thirds vote will subject a presidential declaration of martial law to approval by the

national legislature. It will also make a state of emergency be declared in any republic subject to approval by the republic. Many deputies told the assembly their constituents had urged them to have national elections for the presidency rather than confining the vote to the congress.

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Likud, Labour woo religious politicians ahead of vote today

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The leaders of Israel's collapsed coalition government wooed a handful of religious politicians Wednesday in a bid to form a new administration.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the rightist Likud party leader, and sacked Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, who heads the rival leftist Labour Party, courted bearded rabbis in black robes demanding public observance of Jewish law and government cash for religious schools.

Shamir and Peres, whose unity government collapsed on Tuesday over the prime minister's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for first-ever peace talks with Palestinians, each hope to win a parliamentary no-confidence vote.

The winner, backed by four small religious parties holding an 18-seat swing vote in the 120-seat legislature, plans to set up a government without his political foe.

The two leaders, meanwhile, accused each other of toppling the 15-month-old coalition. An opinion poll in Yediot Aharnot, Israel's largest selling newspaper, said both were to blame.

"There won't be peace so long as Shamir heads this government," Peres told Israel radio. The Knesset, or parliament, was due to vote Thursday on whether to bring down the gov-

ernment, barring a last-minute bid by Labour in the supreme court to move a no-confidence motion forward a day.

The timing was important. If the vote took place on Wednesday, then the outgoing Labour ministers would retain their jobs — and thus their political powers — until a new government was formed.

A vote Thursday would fall outside the 48-hour limit when the Labour Party, resignations would take effect.

The coalition fell apart when Shamir fired Peres as finance minister and other Labour ministers quit the cabinet.

In Washington the State Department said the United States remains committed to the search for peace in the Middle East, although the process has been complicated by the political crisis that has split the Israeli cabinet.

Spokesman Margaret Tutwiler told questioners at the department's briefing Tuesday that the United States does not believe the Israeli political crisis means "the end of the road" for the peace process, although it certainly complicates it.

"We're committed to the peace process, which is why we went down this road to begin with last April," she said, noting the United States was "asked to get engaged" by Shamir.

"We got engaged," Tutwiler

pointed out, "in a big way. We remain willing, ready to continue to work on what is at issue here... which is to bring peace to this region."

Tutwiler said she would not "inject" herself into Israel's internal problems, but she noted the Israeli political crisis was "evidence" of how hard the ministers had been "wrestling" with the difficult problems posed by the peace process.

Tutwiler pointed out that Secretary of State James Baker has been working diplomatically for months to develop a framework for establishing an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue leading to decisions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which was the focal point of the initiative, Israel announced last May.

"We think the basis has been laid to make progress, and we remain ready to work with the government of Israel in an effort to help it realise the potential of its own peace initiative," Tutwiler said.

In December, both the Israeli and Egyptian governments agreed in principle to a five-point framework advanced by Baker; two weeks ago the secretary said he was awaiting a response from the Israeli government on a series of questions concerning that diplomatic framework.

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Security Council delays session on Jewish influx

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Security Council negotiations are under way to reconcile U.S., Soviet and Arab draft resolutions which criticise Israel's settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

A formal meeting of the council, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, was postponed indefinitely after Arab ambassadors decided Tuesday that more time was needed to organise the meeting in light of the crisis in the Israeli government that has complicated peace prospects.

The Soviet Union — which originally requested the meeting — Arab and most non-aligned states have denounced Israel's settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

The United States also is opposed Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But the U.S. criticism in its resolution is mild, expressing only "regret" at the new settlement, while the Soviet criticism is stronger, saying the council "deplores the illegal practices" of Israel in the new settlements.

Both U.S. and Soviet drafts call upon the government of Israel to end the settlement of Jewish Jews in the occupied territories.

The language of an Arab draft resolution condemned the settlements and was more strident, diplomats said. A British resolution was said to attempt to bridge the gap between various resolutions, seeking to avert a U.S. veto of a resolution that it might deem

too harsh. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate a big immigration from the Soviet Union.

In another development, Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, said Wednesday that President George Bush had written to him promising that the United States supports a "united Jerusalem."

Jerusalem "must never again be a divided city," Bush wrote in a March 13 letter to Kollek and distributed at a news conference in the occupied city. Kollek also distributed the letter he wrote to Bush March 8.

Bush warned against "steps that could prejudice the prospects" for Arab-Israeli negotiations on Jerusalem's future, but wrote nothing about Jewish settlement in the Arab sector of the city.

Last week, Bush made a statement apparently lumping Arab Jerusalem with the West Bank Israel strongly objected, saying Jerusalem was a separate issue.

Asked a news conference at the Israeli embassy whether he believed Bush's letter cancelled the American president's earlier statement, Kollek said, "that is my strong impression."

Bush wrote: "It is also our view that the final status of this most special of cities should be decided by negotiation, and that this negotiation would be facilitated if we were well along the path

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Arabs set up \$500m fund to boost trade

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab finance chiefs approved Wednesday the establishment of a \$500-million fund intended to keep as much trade as possible within the Arab World.

Finance ministers from the Arab League and the heads of the five main Arab monetary and development funds passed the project at their annual meeting in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

"We want to divert trade going overseas (to non-Arab states) and get it flowing around the region," said a senior official of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Profits and other benefits from the rest of Arab trade are therefore at best split with industrialised countries, where Arab states buy most of their food and manufactured goods and where they export most of their oil.

The new fund will become operational in July, when countries can start applying for financing for trade projects involving exports of Arab-made goods to other Arab states.

Government promises to take steps to reinstate fired employees after sit-in

By Mariam M. Shalhin and Sa'd Hattar

AMMAN — Approximately 150 people Wednesday staged a three-hour sit-in outside the Prime Ministry demanding the release of "political" prisoners and the reinstatement of 950 people dismissed from their jobs for political reasons.

The demonstrators called for the immediate release of still detained "political" prisoners and a set timetable of no more than a month for the reinstatement of all those who had lost their jobs for political reasons.

According to the protesters, there are 35 political prisoners still being held, but the interior minister said that there were only 31.

At the outset of the sit-in, relatives and families of prisoners scuffled with 20 riot policemen who attempted to move them from the Prime Ministry's main gate to the back entrance.

Eyewitnesses said police clashed briefly with a number of demonstrators with batons before Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh appeared on the scene and expressed his readiness to meet with representatives of the demonstrators.

"There was no reason for anyone to get hit," said Zaqqa Deputy Saad Haddadin, who is also a member of the Democratic Bloc in the Lower House of Parliament, who was present at the scene.

"The guards demanded that the crowd move away from the gate, which was not really necessary in my opinion, but I talked to the demonstrators and they agreed to move away 50 metres," Haddadin added.

After meeting for one hour with three representatives of the demonstrators and Haddadin, Masa'deh told the crowd the government intended to meet all their demands but within its limits.

A senior government official said Wednesday that the matter of dismissed persons was "no longer political but an administrative affair."

"The government is trying very hard to reinstate them," he said.

"But it will take time."

A member of the delegation that talked to Masa'deh, Jamil Nemri, said that the delegation asked the minister to set a timetable of no more than one month to reinstate 950 Jordanians who had been sacked from their jobs.

Masa'deh told reporters while the government did not commit itself to a set time-table, it promised to reinstate the sacked people within its "financial capabilities and in accordance with availability of openings."

During a meeting of the Public Freedoms Committee earlier in the week, dismissed persons charged that promises by the executive body as well as parliamentarians had not been fulfilled.

Nemri said that 27 Jordanians who had been dismissed from their posts for political reasons were recently reinstated at the Ministry of Education.

Government officials have said that they are giving priority to applicants who were previously dismissed from their jobs over the 49,000 job-seekers registered with the Civil Service Commission.

Germanys, allies start formal talks

BONN (Agencies) — The two German nations and the four World War II allies Wednesday began their first formal talks on German unification, taking a preliminary look at the enormously complex difficulties that lie ahead.

No decisions are expected in Wednesday's preliminary round of discussions by lower-level officials from the two German nations and the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France.

The one-day talks are part of the "two-plus-four" formula of unification discussions agreed on last month in Ottawa. There has not been any announcement on the timing or place of the next round.

Wednesday's discussions are expected to be mainly procedural.

After their morning talks, the delegates began a meeting with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Before the Genscher meeting, 18 officials from the six nations began their talks at an enormous round table inside the West German Foreign Ministry.

The chief East German delegate, Deputy Foreign Minister Ernst Krabatsch, was asked whether Wednesday's meeting had any real meaning since the current East German government will likely be voted out of office in Sunday's elections.

"One can speak about everything which is concretely before us," Krabatsch responded.

He also reiterated East Germany favours the participation of all concerned nations in unification talks at some level.

"We've always favoured... including neighbouring countries — all interested countries, including Poland" in unification discussions, he said.

West German Television said the officials will discuss alternating the sites of the next meetings in the capitals of the "participating countries."

A day earlier, West Germany said Poland could participate in the international talks when Poland's Western borders are being discussed.

Poland had demanded to be included in the talks because it wants to make sure that its territory, which includes some formerly German territory ended to it at the end of World War II, remains untouched.

West Germany had said initially that the concerns of all interested nations would be addressed during the unification process.

Iraq reportedly rejects Hurd visit over journalist

LONDON (Agencies) — Iraq has rejected British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's offer to visit Baghdad this weekend to try to save a British-based journalist sentenced to death on spy charges, the Foreign Office said Wednesday.

The Iraqi authorities said it was not the right time for a visit, a spokesman said.

Iranian-born Farzad Bazoft, 31, a reporter with the Observer newspaper, was arrested last September while investigating reports of an explosion at an Iraqi military complex.

An Iraqi court sentenced him to death last Saturday and imposed a 15-year jail term on British nurse Daphne Parish, 52, who drove him to the site.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Tuesday night, President Saddam Hussein could not intervene to reduce the death sentence while under political and media pressure.

The agency, quoting a Foreign Ministry spokesman, also said the British reaction to the sentence was hasty.

"President Saddam Hussein could not decide to intervene in the cases of Farzad Bazoft and Daphne Parish to reduce their sentences while under political

and media pressure," INA said.

Hurd, who is to attend a joint meeting of the European Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council in Oman on March 17, had offered to stop in Baghdad and discuss the cases of Bazoft and Parish with President Hussein.

Under Iraqi law, Bazoft and Parish cannot appeal against their sentences, but the president can intervene on their behalf.

Britain has launched an international campaign for clemency. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she was horrified at the sentences and had written to Hussein asking him to intercede.

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, His Majesty King Hussein, and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat have also lent support to the campaign.

"The statements made by the British authorities about the just and legal sentence passed on the spy of Iranian origin, Bazoft, and Parish, were characterised by hastiness," INA said.

"As we know, this is not the way to make the president of Iraq intervene and use his constitutional powers to reduce the sentence," it added.

Carter in Damascus, will discuss hostages

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived Wednesday and said he expected to discuss the plight of foreign hostages in Lebanon with President Hafez Al Assad.

"It's obvious to me that the Syrian leaders are very eager to see the hostage question solved and so see the hostages released," Carter told reporters on arrival at Damascus international airport.

The former president, who arrived from Egypt, was due to meet Assad and other officials before continuing his tour with visits to Jordan and Israel.

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, who greeted Carter, said he was "not pessimistic" about freeing hostages in Lebanon.

"As we did exert a lot of efforts in the past to gain the release of so many hostages... we are still continuing to exert such intensive efforts," Sharaa said.

Seventeen Westerners are missing and believed held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon, where Syria has stationed 40,000 troops and is the main foreign power broker.

There have been persistent reports in recent weeks of U.S.

Iranian talks on freeing the captives, who include eight Americans and three Britons. Both Washington and Tehran have denied the reports.

Carter, who spent his last 14 months as president struggling to win freedom for 52 American hostages in Iran only to see them released as he left office in January 1981, said Iranian leaders had great influence on the captors of the Lebanese hostages.

"There is no doubt that leaders of Iran have great influence on the future of the hostages," Carter said.

Carter said he had a "series of constructive" meetings with Assad starting in 1977 in Geneva, adding that Syria was a "very significant" part of his current Middle East tour.

Carter, who brokered the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli treaty, said his talks would cover issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process in the Middle East and how to improve ties between Damascus and Washington.

"We hope for a comprehensive settlement for all the issues including those between Syria and Israel in the future," he said.

Israeli coalition collapse deals fatal blow to Mideast peace bid

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The collapse of the Israeli government may have ended the best chance of making real progress toward solving the Arab-Israeli conflict in the past decade, analysts said.

While some tried to find a silver lining, the predominant reaction among Washington officials, diplomats and analysts interviewed by Reuters was one of gloom. Several said they believed the current round of U.S.-sponsored efforts to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue was dead.

"The immediate reaction is that yes, it's all over now," said Geoffrey Kemp of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Potentially, it's a disaster. There's now a big question mark over how long the Arab position can hold in its peace stance."

The fragile Israeli left-right government folded when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed Labour Party leader

Shimon Peres from the government and rejected his demand to agree to peace talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

Administration officials were reluctant to comment on what was likely to happen next.

President George Bush Tuesday told a news conference: "Right now in Israel there's internal developments taking place in the political scene there and I do not want in any way to

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mingle into the internal affairs of Israel. It's so sensitive, it's so emotional and I just think any further speculation on this question would certainly not be useful."

Dennis Ross, the senior State Department official widely seen as the architect of the U.S. initiative, told a Jewish group Monday that the current peace opportunity should not be missed because the chance to talk with Palestinians who were ready to negotiate with Israel

might not repeat itself.

Historically, missed opportunities for peace in the Middle East have been followed by periods of radicalisation in which all sides sharpen their positions. Such developments, more often than not in the past, have led to intensified violence.

After months of painstaking diplomatic efforts, Secretary of State James Baker had succeeded in gaining Palestinian and Arab support for a dialogue with the Israeli government aimed at paving the way to elections in the occupied territories, where a Palestinian uprising has been raging for 27 months.

It was widely seen as the most productive round of Middle East mediation since Israeli-Egyptian talks on Palestinian autonomy collapsed 10 years ago.

But Shamir hesitated about committing Israel to the talks. His hesitation turned to refusal after Bush 10 days ago expressed opposition both to Israeli settlements of East Jerusalem and West Bank settlements, jabbing

Israelis at their most sensitive point, control of the holy city.

"The United States played a very good game but lost the endgame. The fall of this government is very much against U.S. interests," said Barry Rubin of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Rubin said the best chance for moving forward was if Peres would form a coalition with leftist and religious parties. But he said this was a slim hope.

Elections, a more likely outcome, would delay matters for months and there was no certainty that a new Israeli government would be any more disposed to make concessions for peace.

"Shamir will try to make it an election over Jerusalem and the need to resist U.S. pressure. It's the best possible issue for him," said one Israeli source in Washington.

"Months of election rhetoric will harden positions on all sides and I'm afraid it will be difficult to get back to where we were," the source said.

Gulf papers ridicule Israeli coalition collapse

NICOSIA (R) — Arab newspapers in the Gulf Wednesday described the collapse of Israel's governing coalition over a U.S. plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks as a manoeuvre, a ridiculous scenario and a tragic comedy.

"This is basically a manoeuvre and a ridiculous scenario which has been expected," the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Riyadh said of Tuesday's coalition breakup.

The problem faced by the Israeli government is that it wants to show the world it is democratic with room for various ideologies while Zionist mentality is dominated by religious interpretations which have assumed the force of law," it said.

The view was shared by

another Saudi newspaper, Al Yom, which said "the seriousness of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's manoeuvre is that it has placed Israel's political future in the hands of extremist parties."

"This manoeuvre is definite proof of Shamir's rejection of any peace initiative to resolve the Middle East conflict," Al Bayan, of Dubai, said the dismissal of Shimon Peres, leader of the Israeli Labour Party and the Likud Party's partner in the coalition, "is merely part of a scenario to gain time to implement Israel's expansionist designs."

"We don't believe there are real differences among Israeli rulers, whether they belong to the

Labour or Likud Party, on the main aims," it added.

Al Itihad, of Abu Dhabi, saw in the Israeli coalition government collapse an obstruction to attempts to resolve the Middle East conflict.

"The actual result of what happened in Tel Aviv is that a settlement has been hampered and the Arabs should reconsider the situation on this basis and in the light of international changes which the enemy is trying to exploit," it said.

In a similar commentary, the English-language Kuwait Times said, "the collapse does not call for optimism and the Zionist entity's aims are the same irrespective of the governments in power."

It warned that the collapse "may be a major setback for the peace process in the Middle East, if such a process really exists."

Bahrain's Al Khbar Al Khaleji described the Israeli government crisis as a tragic comedy and cautioned the Arab countries not to be optimistic.

"This comedy has not ended yet and the worst is still to come," it said.

Al Raya, of Qatar, said "we should bank neither on the Likud nor on the Labour Party but should be on the alert for what is lurking for us and for Zionist designs."

"Otherwise, we will lose much and again be sorry but too late."

Kabul blames Pakistan for coup bid

KABUL (R) — Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil Wednesday accused Pakistan of organising the failed coup against President Najibullah last week and said he had written to the U.N. secretary general with proof.

"In my letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar I have drawn his attention to evidence that Pakistan actually organised the coup," Wakil told a news conference in Kabul.

Earlier, officials said Pakistan only collaborated with Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai, who led the putsch against Najibullah, and with hardline Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Wakil said Tanai fled to Pakistan after failing to topple Najibullah, who came to power nearly four years ago after heading Khad, the country's feared intelligence and secret police agency.

Pakistan officially denies Tanai ever set foot on Pakistani soil or that its military intelligence service was behind the coup bid.

The Afghan government said 95 civilians died when mutinous air force pilots dropped bombs on government buildings, the presidential palace and a neighbourhood where several embassies are located.

Diplomats in Kabul say 200 loyal and mutinous soldiers were killed in street fighting, particularly in a ferocious tank battle at the Ministry of Defence building.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and 11 injured Wednesday when Mujahideen rebels fired rockets on an industrial park on the outskirts of Kabul, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

It was the first such attack on the capital since the coup attempt, he said.

Anti-Communist Mujahideen rebels have been launching rocket attacks nearly every day on Kabul since the Soviet Union withdrew the last of its 115,000 troops from Afghanistan in February, 1989, after a nine year stay.

Diplomats in Kabul have speculated that the Mujahideen might seek to exploit the apparent split in Najibullah's government after the abortive coup by intensifying attacks on Kabul and the embattled eastern towns of Khost and Jalalabad.

Bhutto denies charges

Meanwhile Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto Wednesday denied Kabul's charges that her military intelligence service was involved in last week's coup in Afghanistan but said the putsch offered a chance for a bold peace initiative.

"The coup was sudden and unexpected," she said.

"Not only was it not predicted by our own security services but it was not predicted by any of the

security services of the world," she said. "It took everyone by surprise."

No Pakistani agencies or Afghan guerrilla groups based in Pakistan had anything to do with the putsch, she said.

Speaking at her first major news conference for six months, the prime minister said last week's events exploded claims by Afghan President Najibullah that he had mass support.

"Not only does he not have the support of the people of Afghanistan... his former colleagues are turning against him because they see in him the main obstacle to the resolution and restoration of peace in Afghanistan," she said.

Despite Najibullah's victory over Tanai's rebels, the prime minister said, he had emerged much weaker and that provided fresh opportunities for a political settlement.

"I think this is a time for a bold new initiative," she said. "I think that this is a time for not only Pakistan to stop playing favourites, it is also a time for the Soviet Union to stop playing favourites."

"If everyone agrees to turn towards the people of Afghanistan and ask the people of Afghanistan what they want I am sure we could work out a settlement."

Pakistan, the United States and some Arab states are the main backers of Mujahideen guerrillas.

3 U.S. minesweepers leave Gulf

MANAMA (AP) — The three last U.S. minesweepers that have been operating in Gulf waters since the height of the Iraq-Iran war were pulled out this week in view of a reduced mine threat, U.S. naval sources said Wednesday.

The sources would not give the exact itinerary for the USS Estoc, USS Estoc and USS Conquest, which are headed for their home ports on the U.S. west coast.

But they said the vessels would need a minimum of 40 days to reach home port.

The three 720-ton, wooden-hulled vessels were loaded aboard a contracted Dutch heavy-lift ship, Super Servant III, according to the sources.

The vessels, equipped with state-of-the-art sonar and search gear for mines, were part of a group of six that were rushed to the Gulf as part of the U.S. Navy buildup to thwart Iranian attempts to attack shipping in the oil-rich region.

More than 100 mines were found by U.S. vessels from late 1987 until the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire went into effect between Iraq and Iran in August 1988.

Syrian troops watch for attempts to move hostages out of south Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian soldiers guard gateways of two Shi'ite Muslim slum districts in south Beirut in case kidnappers try to smuggle out Western hostages, police say.

"I am sure they are all alive," Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin, spiritual head of Lebanon's Shi'ite community, said recently. "That much I can safely ascertain."

Other senior Shi'ite sources who claimed to know also said that the captives were alive and that most were in south Beirut. All agreed to talk about the situation only if granted anonymity.

Police said Syrian troops had tightened control around the Hajjaj and Hay Madi districts. Syria has 40,000 soldiers in Lebanon under an Arab League peacekeeping mandate issued in 1976, the year after the sectarian civil war began.

"They are searching everything coming out from both neighbourhoods, where most of the hostages are thought to be imprisoned, even funeral processions and caskets," said a police spokesman, whose name cannot be used under standing regulations.

Syrian soldiers have not tried to storm any suspected hideouts of kidnappers, apparently for fear of killing hostages.

Eighteen Westerners are missing in Lebanon and believed to be hostages, including eight Americans.

Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, has been held longest, since March 16, 1985.

The captives have been moved often, in car trunks or coffins, either to escape fighting among Shi'ite factions or to avoid detection.

French journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, freed in 1988, said he was nearly suffocated in a box that was slung beneath a truck.

Anderson, 42, was said to have been chained to a basement wall of a ruined Beirut hotel during his early days as a captive.

Freed hostages have said they, too, were held in basements, or sometimes in upper-floor apartments with no access to windows.

All said they heard jet planes landing and taking off, which supports the belief that most hostages are in the southern slums near Beirut's airport.

Shi'ites claiming to be close to the kidnappers often have approached news agencies in Beirut offering to help free Anderson or Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, in return for as much as \$1 million for each hostage. None of the offers was believed to be legitimate.

Weite, 50, disappeared Jan. 20, 1987, after leaving his hotel in mainly Muslim west Beirut to negotiate for the freedom of Anderson and other Americans.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran has asked pro-Iranian factions in Lebanon grouped under the umbrella of Hizbollah, or Party of God, to free the hostages. But the Shi'ite sources in Beirut believe Rafsanjani has little influence with the militant Hizbollah wing that controls the

hostage-holders.

Hizbollah militants are loyal to Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the hard-line former interior minister of Iran, who helped found Hizbollah while he was Iran's ambassador to Syria in the early 1980s.

Anderson is held by a group calling itself Islamic Jihad, or Islamic holy war.

"Rafsanjani's hostage behests are a cry without an echo," said a

senior Shi'ite source. "Rafsanjani wants a deal with the United States to unblock Tehran's frozen assets to cope with Iran's economic crisis, which is generating anti-government public sentiment."

"Mohtashemi and other hard-line opposition leaders have a stake in maintaining the crisis so they can agitate against Rafsanjani, so no hostages are likely to be released in the near future."

The United States holds billions of dollars in Iranian assets that were frozen after the storming of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979. Fifty-two Americans were held 444 days.

Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders have said Iran would help get the hostages in Lebanon released if the United States freed the assets.

This week, Mohtashemi said some of the captives were spies and argued against freeing any of the "mercenary U.S. hostages."

Support for the hard-liners came March 6 when a group holding American hostages Joseph Cicippio and Edward Austin Tracy broke a seven-month silence to say no captives were about to be freed.

Algeria may hold early parliamentary elections

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid has said early parliamentary elections demanded by the country's newly legal opposition might be held.

Benjedid in an unprecedented 4½-hour meeting with the Algerian press Tuesday, said the parties should first show they were solidly implanted in the country and respected the rules of its emerging multi-party democracy.

"Are all the parties truly well implanted? Do they have a territorial base that enables them to face these elections?" Chadli asked. His remarks were published Wednesday.

Algeria abandoned one-party politics last year and has scheduled its first multi-party elections in 40 years on June 12 for town and provincial councils.

Most of the new opposition parties, led by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, have demanded early parliamentary elections as well.

The current National Assembly, entirely composed of members of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), is not due to be renewed until 1992.

Benjedid, who is also FLN

president, did not exclude the possibility he might "cohabit" with an opposition government. He was elected in 1988 for a third five-year term.

"My presidential mandate stems from the popular will. As head of state I will work for all Algerians and I am thus obliged not to distinguish between existing political parties," he said, adding he had no intention of leaving the FLN.

Benjedid reiterated support for the government of Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, who is struggling to implement an ambitious economic reform programme against opposition from FLN conservatives and widespread social unrest.

"I have promised to implement the reforms, and as long as I am in this post the reforms will be implemented with complete respect for the constitution," Benjedid said.

The reforms, conceived in the early 1980s but only partially implemented, scrap central economic planning adopted in the 1960s and give state firms financial and management autonomy.

Iran frees 20 Egyptian PoWs

GENEVA (R) — Twenty Egyptian prisoners of the Gulf war flew from Tehran to freedom Wednesday and walked hesitantly down the ramp of an Iran Air plane in Geneva as if unsure they were really being set free.

But the prisoners, dressed in gray prison camp uniforms, soon broke into smiles.

They were flying later to Cairo under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Lebanese Muslim fundamentalist Sheikh Saeed Shaaban, wearing a brown robe and a white turban, walked off the plane ahead of the prisoners.

An Iranian official told Reuters the Sunni cleric, who has close ties with Tehran, mediated the deal.

The prisoners looked to be between 25 and 50 years old. One older man had to be helped down the ramp by other prisoners.

The Egyptians fought for Iraq against Iran in the eight-year Gulf war. An unknown number are still being held prisoner.

The ICRC says that because Iran has denied it access to non-Iraqi prisoners it cannot be sure that some of the Egyptians were not simply workers seized in border areas during the fighting.

The 20 prisoners released Wednesday represent less than one per cent of the 100,000 prisoners held by the two sides, with neither Iran nor Iraq making any more than token repatriations.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived on the same plane but refused all comment. He is in Geneva to address the U.N.-sponsored conference on disarmament.

The ICRC interviewed the 20 Egyptians in Tehran Tuesday night to be sure they wanted to return. Egypt and Iran have no diplomatic ties.

Cheney: U.S. may sell Patriot missiles to Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is considering the sale of a sophisticated air defence package to Israel for protection from ballistic missile attack, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has said.

That package, he said, would probably include some U.S. Patriot anti-aircraft missiles now assigned to Western Europe. The Patriot has in past tests been used to interest and destroy other missiles in flight.

Cheney spoke to young members of the United Jewish Appeal and was asked about a Los Angeles Times report that the Bush administration had agreed to provide Israel with Patriots and satellite information to counter any threat from ballistic missiles in Syria and other countries.

"We have not yet finalised arrangements in this area," he replied. "We have talked with the Israelis... about a number of ways of dealing with the increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile threat... which you have in the Middle East."

Cheney said that early-warning radars and Patriots were among items which he had discussed with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"The Patriot is a sophisticated air defence system that has significant capabilities," he said.

Cheney said the United States was deeply concerned about what he called Libyan production of chemical weapons, which some analysts have warned could be used in missiles.

Cheney said he planned to visit Israel in May and vowed that the U.S. commitment to its security was unshakable.

Questions have risen about that commitment in recent months. Republican leaders in Congress and Secretary of State James Baker raised the possibility of a cut in the U.S. aid package to Israel in order to provide more aid to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

Cheney did not comment on possible cuts but defended a U.S. decision to transfer 700 older U.S. M-60 tanks from Western Europe to Egypt over the next few years.

He said he was not concerned that the Soviet Union might also send some of its second-line tanks from Europe to Libya and other countries in the region instead of destroying them as part of any arms reduction agreement in Europe.

"If (the M-60 tanks switch) has not been objected to by the government of Israel," Cheney said, "I'm not concerned about that kind of (Soviet) transaction. I haven't seen any evidence of it yet."

Israel not interested

Meanwhile an Israeli military official said Wednesday Israel is not interested in purchasing a new air defence missile that has been offered by the Pentagon.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, described the American-made Patriot missile as "one of the best anti-aircraft units" in the world.

But he added, as an anti-ballistic missile system "it only gives limited solution to the missile problem, so we don't intend to buy at this stage."

"We are looking at other systems," he said, but would not elaborate.

Israel currently is working with the United States to develop an anti-missile system called the Arrow. The United States is contributing about 80 per cent of the \$158 million development cost under its Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars."

Surface-to-surface missiles were widely used in the Iran-Iraq war, raising fears in Israel that they could be employed against the Jewish state in a future conflict.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korea
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Tel Fata Tel Film
18:30 La Chance aux chansons
18:50 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A Different World
21:10 NBA Basketball
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Woman of Sea Queen"

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:43 (Sunrise) Duha
11:45 Asr
15:09 Maghreb
17:46 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeth
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
625785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel.
625543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772621.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel.
627981, 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 813817 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and a rise in
temperature will occur. Winds will be
northerly moderate and sea calm.

Mis./max. temp.
Amman 4/18
Aqaba 11/23
Dawran 3/20
Jordan Valley 1/24

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Salman Al Debarobi 776571
Dr. Majed Abu Saieeh 881635
Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301
Dr. Adel Amman 812148
First pharmacy 773111
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Najrookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salama pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamoun pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 691228

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Salman Al Debarobi 776571
Dr. Majed Abu Saieeh 881635
Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301
Dr. Adel Amman 812148
First pharmacy 773111
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Najrookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salama pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamoun pharmacy 637660

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hawain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 642815
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Molles, J. Amman 630140
Palestine, Shamsat 664714
Shamsat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 842845
Al-Muhammed Hospital 672279
The Islamic, Alkhal 66612757
Al-Ahli, Alkhal 661646

FOR THE TRAVELLER

ITALY, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Badr, J. Amman 775112/6
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Amed Hospital 674533
ZABQA:
Zabqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zabqa National Hospital (09)991071
Jin Sina Hospital (09)986732
BRUSSELS:
Princess Beatrix Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
The Al Nafces Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS

09:00 Damascus (RJ)

Intifada committee appeals for funds, answers critics

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada will launch a week-long series of activities to commemorate the Battle of Karameh and to express solidarity with the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising.

At a press conference Wednesday at the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), the under-secretary of the committee, Mamdouh Abbadi, said that the national week for the support of the intifada was aimed at highlighting Jordan's solidarity with the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation and to collect donations for the families of martyrs and the wounded—the boundaries within which the committee works.

"Giving money to those who are struggling and sacrificing their lives is the duty and responsibility of all Jordanians and Arabs everywhere," he said. "This form of (financial) support is the least we can do to help our suffering brothers and sisters in the occupied territories," Abbadi told journalists.

He called on every citizen in Jordan, "whether child, employee or farmer," to donate any sum of money — "even if it is only 50 fils" — on collection day scheduled on the last day of activities March 28. He said that 750 people would be stationed in 57 different centres with 250 boxes in the Greater Amman area to collect donations.

"We are counting on people's generosity, especially that

collection day will be during the Holy Month of Ramadan. We have printed 250-fils coupons, and we hope to collect JD 250,000," Abbadi said. Banners would be hung on the streets to remind people of the importance of supporting the intifada," he added.

He explained that all the funds collected by the popular committee are directly distributed to the Palestinians who have been injured and to families of martyrs.

Abbadi, president of the JMA, criticised "certain elements who are accusing the committee of not ensuring that the money gets to the Palestinians inside the occupied territories."

"We have been accused by different people in public gatherings that the money we collect is not reaching the right hands. Those who want to know how the money is distributed are invited to the association to witness that the money is taken directly by Palestinians from inside," Abbadi said.

He said that after providing the proper documents, families of martyrs are given JD 1,000, while the wounded take JD 200 each.

According to Abbadi, the popular committee had raised JD 489,227 from the beginning of the year till March 14. So far this year, the committee distributed JD 147,929 for 739 wounded Palestinians, and JD 60,000 for families of 60 martyrs.

In 1989, the committee was able to collect only JD 1,084,921, while in 1988, JD 1,324,155 was collected.

In further support Abbadi's argument against accusations

of mismanaged funds, several Palestinians from the territories collecting their shares of the money came inside to talk about why they were referred to the popular committee for support by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Safia Mashwakhi from Rafah refugee camp in Gaza explained that she had five cheques to collect for her martyred brother and her other wounded brothers. She said that her 17-year-old martyred brother, Atalla, was shot in the heart by Israeli soldiers with "dumdum" bullets that explode in the body. "These are internationally banned bullets, but the Israelis use them anyway because they can get away with breaking all international laws," she commented.

Twelve-year-old Khaled Shawwa, also from Gaza, exposed his injuries in front of reporters and cameras, five bullets in his chest, one of them in the heart.

"My brothers and I walked outside the house, when the Israeli soldiers told us to stop, and they just shot us," Khaled said matter-of-factly, adding that he was then taken to an interrogation centre for half an hour before being taken to Al Shifa hospital in Gaza. "But after surgery, the army took me out of the hospital by force, even though the doctors protested," Khaled added.

His mother, Fatima, also told the gathering about how Israeli soldiers broke into her house and started hitting her other younger son, aged 10, "I told the officer I was an Egyptian citizen and that I would complain in the Egyptian embassy, and he ordered the



As the intifada continues, the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada provides financial assistance to the wounded and families of martyrs (file photo)

soldier to shoot me. But he beat my arm with his gun and it broke in two places. The Israelis don't care if you're Egyptian or not... so much for Camp David," Fatima said.

Many of the victims collecting money wanted to tell their stories. But one injured man summed it up: "Life under Israeli occupation means martyrs and wounded. There are parents who have lost two and three children," he said

emotionally.

Abbadi stressed the need to support the uprising, and called on all citizens and institutions to actively participate in the national week for the support of the intifada, which will include public speeches, nationalist poetry recitals, Palestinian and Jordanian folk songs and dances, a football game between Al Diffa and Al Faisali Clubs, as well as a charity dinner and a political seminar.

Sukhneh camp lacks essential services

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Palestine refugee camp near the town of Sukhneh in the Zarqa governorate lacks basic services such as paved roads, running water, recreation centres, telephones and social centres, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency quoted Taha Erian, the mayor of Sukhneh, as saying that nothing could be done in view of the difficult financial conditions. "The municipality can by no means carry out improvements on its own," he said.

The mayor in an interview with Petra which sent a team of reporters to the area, said that the camp was partly controlled by the Foreign Ministry Department of Palestinian Affairs and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

"There is no playground for the children nor are there sufficient funds to light all the roads

and streets," the mayor said. He said that the whole camp was being served by one garbage truck which was not enough for the needs of the growing population.

Local residents blamed UNRWA and the government for the lack of services. They demanded a vocational centre for handicrafts, proper sanitation, telephone and postal services and special assistance to disabled persons.

The camp, on an estimated area of 73 dunums, was visited Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, during a tour of Zarqa governorate. The Regent inspected camp services and listened to resident demands. Residents called on the Regent to urge concerned government departments to improve the camp's conditions.

Meanwhile, Zarqa Governor Muhammad Al Shohaki announced that the director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, plans to inspect the refugee camp soon to determine the needs and to refer requests to the concerned government departments. He said the governor's office was giving proper attention to the problems of the camps and ways to improve services to the refugees.

The department's representative in Zarqa, Hisham Al Beek, said the department was providing certain services, although the camp should be fully maintained by UNRWA which now only provides educational and health services. He said that the camp was set up on private property and the department has to pay annual rent to its owners.

Libya pledges aid to Awqaf ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Islamic Dawaa Society in Libya has pledged \$400,000 to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Jordan to help finance the construction of Islamic law schools in the Kingdom and offered \$100,000 in assistance to students from the occupied Arab territories studying in Jordanian universities on an annual basis, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr said here Wednesday.

The minister made the statement upon returning here from Libya where he met with the society's officials and members. He was also received by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. They discussed cooperation in Islamic affairs.

"The society has pledged to provide assistance to the families of martyrs living in Jordan and agreed to set up a joint Jordanian-Libyan Awqaf Council to handle waqf and endowment funds for religious affairs," the minister said.

He said that an initial agreement was reached with the society to set up a joint investment company which will yield profits to finance Islamic projects.

"The agreement provides for exchange of information and publications, visits by Muslim scholars and preachers and cooperation in teaching religion at universities and institutes in both countries," the minister said.

Cabinet backs aid to southern regions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Recommendations submitted to the government by a special committee to deal with the effects of drought in the southern parts of Jordan have been endorsed by the Council of Ministers.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh had recommended that funds be spent in the form of loans in the Karak, Tafleh and Maan regions to purchase animal feed.

The interest-free loans will be partly guaranteed by the state and will be distributed through the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC).

According to Petra, sufficient water supplies will be made available for livestock and farms free of charge. Remote villages will be supplied with water by trucks.

Press reports said that at least

JD 3 million will be spent on these projects. According to Petra, earth dams and agricultural roads will be built and artesian wells will be repaired to ensure sufficient flow of water.

In addition, loans to local municipal councils will be rescheduled for 1990 and 1991 through arrangements with the Cities and Villages Development Bank, the agency said. The National Aid Fund (NAF), which normally provides assistance to needy groups, will also make additional allocations to finance income generating projects, Petra said.

At least one quarter of a \$1 million fund, originally allocated for the development of the highland regions in the three governorates, will be used now to initiate agricultural projects. All pasture lands in the three areas will be open for grazing.

Bulgaria voices full support for intifada

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgaria's Deputy Foreign Minister and President of the Religious Council Liubomir Popov Wednesday expressed his country's full support for the Palestinian intifada in the Israeli held Arab territories and condemnation of Israel's practices against the Palestinian people.

Popov, in a meeting with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqr, condemned Israel's plan to settle Jews in the occupied Arab lands and expressed hope that the Palestinian people will regain their legitimate rights.

Popov said "Bulgaria had transformed its system from a one party-system into a pluralistic democracy which ensures freedoms for all religions, political groups and public organisations."

Bulgaria's Mufti (Islamic religious leader) Dr. Nedim Gemdov, who is accompanying Popov on his two-day visit to Jordan, told the minister that Bulgarian Muslims' rights were now guaranteed and they enjoy full religious freedom. They use Arabic and Islamic names which were earlier forbidden, he said.

Faqr urged the Bulgarian government to prevent Jews from emigrating to Palestine because "this emigration is detrimental to the rights of the Palestinian people and harmful to the peace process."

Faqr expressed Jordan's support for the new changes in Bulgaria which ensure human rights and religious freedoms.

The minister said Jordan was ready to offer Muslim students courses at its institutes in Jordan.

Regional IBS meeting opens

AMMAN (Petra) — The sixth conference of the organisation of the International Baccalaureate School (IBS) opened Wednesday in Amman. Taking part in the regional conference are IBS teachers from eight Arab and foreign countries.

Her Royal Highness Princess

Sarvat, chairwoman of the IBS board of trustees, reviewed in her opening address the history of the International Baccalaureate School in Amman, its aims, philosophy, plans and programmes. She discussed the possible addition of an Islamic, Arabic culture and language programme to the curricula.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince attends graduation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday attended the graduation ceremony for a new batch of people's army recruits and delivered a brief address underlining the importance of national unity. Prince Hassan said that the graduates can pool their resources and knowledge to enrich the Jordanian society to help it move ahead.

Regent visits geography centre

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday visited the Royal Geographic Centre where he met with the centre's Director General Uqla Al Dulaimat. The Crown Prince was briefed by Dulaimat on the centre's programmes and activities and the services it provides for both the public and private sectors.

1989 budget law endorsed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Wednesday endorsed the 1989 budget law and a draft law on an annex for the 1989 budget, following a lengthy debate. Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who attended the meeting along with cabinet members, told the Senate that the government was committed to refraining from issuing any annex to fiscal budget unless they are approved by the Lower House in accordance with Article 115 of the Jordanian constitution. The Senate earlier endorsed an amendment to a law on Islamic courts and an amendment to a law on the armed forces officers services.

Ramadan working hours announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — Office hours in government departments during the month of Ramadan will be from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The communique said however that certain departments which require special arrangements, can have different office hours as seen fit by their directors during the holy month. Normally, office hours in government departments are between 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. During Ramadan all restaurants, liquor stores and nightclubs remain closed in Jordan from dawn to dusk while fasting is observed. The prime minister urged all heads of departments to ensure that fasting rules be observed during Ramadan which is expected to begin March 27.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of plastic artists Arif Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabeekah at the Housing Bank Complex.
- Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shouman Foundation (10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mahmoud Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Al Abedi at the Yarmouk University.
- Art exhibition displaying paintings on glass and silk by Wafaa Tharwath and Awni Al Khatib at the Professional Associations Complex.
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Hisham Dghelm at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Photographic exhibition "The Soviet Village on the Path of Perestroika" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- Soviet film entitled "Tank T34" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.
- Feature film entitled "It's a Wonderful Life" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- The 1990 American film festival of fantasy and comedy features "The Goonies" at the Philadelphia Theatre — Friday at 8:00 p.m.

Union, ministry dispute intensifies

AMMAN (J.T.) — A dispute between land transport and mechanical workers union in Jordan and the Ministry of Labour Wednesday intensified following a threat by the director of the Damascus-based Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) to report the matter to the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ALO threat followed Minister of Labour Qasem Obaidat's recent decision to dissolve the union's administration board and to hold union elections. Despite the minister's decision, the board members were still working normally. The union is backed by the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions in the Kingdom.

(Continued from page 1)

"Obviously, there's a political crisis in Israel" now, Tutwiler said, "and until that is sorted out, Israel won't be in a position to make a decision." She added, "We obviously will be watching this process closely and I'm not going to make any other comments on internal political developments in Israel."

Asked if the United States bore any responsibility for the Israeli political crisis, Tutwiler replied: "Absolutely not."

In parliament, Shamir told his Likud caucus Labour was to blame for accepting Washington's insistence on a peace role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Our initiative clearly intended to take the PLO out of the arena. But the State Department put all its energy into focusing on the PLO and the Labour Party said nothing would move without the PLO," Shamir said.

"With the PLO there is no chance for peace. They do not want peace. They want a divided and crumbled Israel," he said. The poll published Wednesday in Yedioth Ahronoth showed 35 per cent backed Shamir in the current dispute and 36 per cent backed Peres. People were equally split on which party should head the government.

Egypt, in its first reaction to the collapse of the Israeli government, said Wednesday it was following with great concern the developments there.

"Egypt is following with great concern the ministerial problem in Israel," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali said.

"(Egypt) hopes it will not affect the diplomatic effort to

'Dental day race' whistle blows Friday to spread awareness

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Dentists Association (JDA) has organised a "dental day race" in Amman Friday to culminate a week-long campaign in spread awareness among school students and the public about the importance of dental care.

JDA President Ishaq Al Khairi told a press conference Wednesday that the race was intended to demonstrate the association's interest in supporting health, as well as sports and youth activities and spread public awareness about dental care.

The 3.7 kilometre race will be held in Amman's suburbs with approximately 1,200 participants from various parts of the Kingdom.

JDA spokesman Farah Attallah

said that JDA, the ministries of health, education and youth distributed 10,000 posters on dental care to schools.

The JDA campaign which started last Saturday included lectures on dental health at youth centres, women associations, sports clubs and schools in various parts of the country as well as free dental examinations by 120 dentists.

A representative of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jordan told the last week dental conference about health and dental services offered to refugees in UNRWA's field of operations in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Likud, Labour woo religious politicians

establish a dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israeli government," he told reporters.

On Wednesday, Shamir's first order of business was trying to patch up differences with rivals in Likud, among them superhawk Ariel Sharon who resigned as trade minister and called for Shamir to abandon the current peace efforts.

There were grumblings Wednesday against Shamir's leadership, but Likud sources said there would be no move to unseat the premier unless he lost the no-confidence vote. Shamir, according to recent polls, is still the most popular of Likud leaders.

But Reuven Rivlin, a political associate of Housing Minister David Levy, a Shamir rival in Likud, suggested the prime minister should quit to strengthen Likud's support from religious parties, which have criticised Shamir for failing to keep his promises.

The most scathing attack came from parliament member Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party. He told the Jerusalem Post: "We should vote no confidence in Shamir. He has no spine, he is not honest. He is an indifferent man with no trace of tradition."

The collapse of the Labour-Likud alliance, which has ruled Israel through eight stormy years of constant political crisis, came when Shamir fired Peres from the government Tuesday, and the party's 10 other ministers resigned.

As Likud and Labour started wooing small religious parties, especially the two-seat Torah flag party, which could become the kingmaker, Rabbi Avraham

Ravitz, the party head, told reporters he favoured a compromise to save the Labour-Likud coalition. He proposed Shamir reinstate Labour ministers and the government accept the U.S. plan with the proviso that Arab Jerusalem Palestinians be excluded from proposed negotiations and elections.

Labour appeared to have the edge in a no-confidence vote although a Peres aide insisted late Wednesday that "we have nothing wrapped up."

Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, whose Shas party is divided on whether to support Shamir, told reporters, "I greatly doubt that anyone in Israel knows which way the vote will go."

Security Council session

(Continued from page 1)

toward peace. There is thus no intention on our part to focus now on the final status of Jerusalem."

Israel's semi-governmental agency responsible for Jewish immigration has asked Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to ease censorship on Soviet Jewish migration to Israel, officials said Wednesday.

Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

But Alexander Yakovlev, Gorbachev's right-hand man on the Communist Party's ruling politburo, said the congress had to move quickly to create the presidency in view of pressing problems in the Soviet Union.

"A popular vote sounds attractive. It is indeed a great idea. But

we must take account of the current crisis," he said.

"There is a struggle now between the supporters of perestroika (restructuring) and those opposed. We are at a crucial stage."

Gorbachev, the party leader and parliamentary chairman, faces a host of problems, including an economy in shambles.

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Sweet talk or double standards?

THE ARAB side has lately been hearing lots of sweet talk from Washington, notably on Arab Jerusalem and the elusive Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. To be sure, the Arab World has received such positive news with a great deal of appreciation and gratitude. Above all, the Arabs saw in these reassuring statements from the U.S. administration prima facie evidence that Washington was indeed taking bold steps and decisions on the stalled peace process. Yet, all these comforting developments come against the backdrop of hard and disturbing news: First came the information that Washington had decided in principle to provide Israel with an additional \$400 million to settle Jewish immigrants ostensibly in Israel proper. As if that was not bad and ominous enough, an even more alarming news from Washington followed, confirming the long-held Arab suspicion that the U.S. has decided to provide Israel with its latest anti-missile and state-of-the-art early-warning systems to offset any possible danger from Arab rockets. No wonder then Tel Aviv faltered once again on the peace process. What possible incentive can Israel have to negotiate peace with the Arab side as long as its arsenal is regularly replenished with the latest U.S. arms and technology and its coffers replenished with extra funds to populate its lands and the occupied territories with new waves of immigrants. Against these conflicting signals from the U.S., the Arab World is left perplexed as to which side of the American story to believe and place its trust and confidence in: The side that makes Israel all the more stronger and confident or the side that intoxicates the Arabs with sweet talk? What is even worse is that all these conflicting signals from Washington are coming at a time when the division between the Likud and Labour parties in Israel on the American formula for Palestinian-Israeli talks has reached a climax and culminated in Shamir simply firing his deputy Shimon Peres from the cabinet. This was clearly a bid by Shamir to preempt any attempt to exert last-minute pressure on him to yield to reason and common sense and accept the American terms for Israeli-Palestinian talks.

With this in mind, the Arab side has no valid reason to put its trust in the newly articulated U.S. policy on the Middle East except when it is backed by deeds and actions that lend it coherence and credibility. And as long as Washington pretends that it is twisting the arms of Tel Aviv to start talks with the Palestinians while at the same time it is filling up Israel's coffers with extra funding and its arsenals with latest U.S. weapons, U.S. intentions will always be suspect.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday said that the collapse of the Israeli coalition government can by no means end the uprising in the occupied Arab territories because neither Shamir nor Peres has had the intention of recognising the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The paper said therefore the Arab countries ought not to take so much time contemplating about such development inside the Israeli government; and the media should not take so much time discussing in vain what would come next on the Israeli political scene. What the Arabs and their media should concern themselves with, the paper said, is the question of mobilising their own force and launching a meaningful and concerted effort to help the Palestinians in their struggle to regain their usurped territories. The paper noted that Peres and his Labour Party did not resign simply because they had wanted to recognise the rights of the Palestinians but rather because of differences with the Likud over methods to suppress the intifada. The paper said that until Israel is prepared to swap peace for land, and until a real change inside Israeli politics takes place there can be no alternative but to rally Arab ranks and prepare the Arab Nation for all eventualities.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses the private schools in Jordan, criticising the unjustified high rate of school fees they impose on the students and their parents. Nazih says in his column that the private schools tend to raise the amount of fees under the pretext that they were trying to improve the educational facilities for the students; but in fact nothing changes for the students and nothing improves. The writer notes that the Ministry of Education has set up a special department for private education; and questions its functions. This department ought to interfere in the schools' affairs and find out about the improvements these schools claim to be introducing through additional fees exacted from the students. The writer points out that parents have been complaining all the time about the behaviour of these schools, and demanding that the Ministry of Education take some action to put an end to irresponsible actions, especially under the current difficult circumstances through which Jordan is now going.

The downfall of the Israeli government following deep differences between Labour and the Likud means that Israel is no more concerned with the elections question nor with dialogue with the Palestinians. Sawt Al Shaab daily said Wednesday. The options are many and varied, not only for Israel but also for the Arabs in terms of dealing with the outcome of the new developments in Israel, said the paper. The Arabs, it said, can, through the intifada, bring about further pressure on the Israelis and cause more changes within the Israeli society. But, it added, the success of Shamir in having the upper hand in politics could usher in an era where Israeli extremists can rule supreme and affect all moves by a Likud-led government in the future. As long as external influence on Shamir and the Likud is diminishing, the paper said, the only remaining power that can interfere in this situation is the United States which can really bring pressure to bear on the Israeli government. The paper expressed hope that the American administration will exercise its power that can lead to a just peace. It said in the absence of a collective Arab action, there is no alternative but to turn to Washington for a solution.

Talking Straight

Lessons from our infant democracy

By Dr. Marwan Muasher

THE first ordinary session of the eleventh Jordanian parliament will be over at the end of this month. The Jordan it will leave behind in March of 1990 will be drastically different from the Jordan it received in November of 1989. These four months will go down in history as the most eventful period Jordan has ever witnessed. Indeed, Jordan has faced two major facets that have probably changed its course for good in the last decade: The economic crisis of 1988/1989 and the return to parliamentary life of 1989.

Now that the country is, to use a popular local cliché, at a crossroads, it might be useful to look back at the last four months and examine what the country has done in relation to the political and economic transformation of the recent months. The lessons which we, collectively as a society, have learnt point to the enormous, maybe even unexpected, maturity that this state has demonstrated. It is this maturity that adds positively to the arguments of the optimists who claim that we have it within ourselves to overcome our present difficulties.

First, Democracy is not sufficient to solve our problems. It is only necessary. After the euphoria of experiencing democracy and freedom of expression is starting to subside, parliamentarians in particular, and society at large in general, are starting to realise that the return to democratic, parliamentary-based life is only the beginning of the road. Democracy does not ensure a solution. It is only a necessary first step. Putting it into action goes beyond the nice rhetoric and easy criticisms into building parliamentary and political institutions that will ensure a proper system of checks and balances. That process of building the legislative institutions is even more difficult than building the institutions of the executive branch, which themselves are until now not fully developed. Members of parliament have started to realise this now, a good first step towards taking action. After four months in office, parliament has discovered that it has not yet been able to touch on a subject as serious as say the economic crisis and to set clear policies for the future. Parliament will soon discover, if it has not already, that building its institutions will take time, money and human resources. Democracy creates the proper and needed atmosphere to create such a system. Our own efforts, and time, have to take care of the rest.

Second, Parliament's collective power is more than the sum of its individual members. The results of the last election were a shock to many, not only because of the political orientations of the candidates who won, but also because of their educational backgrounds. The parliament was judged by many to be not accurately reflective neither of the average political mood nor of the average educational standard of the country. Today, it has become apparent that these fears, even if true, are partly irrelevant. Regardless, even in spite of the qualifications of individual members of the parliament or their political orientations, the presence of an insubstantial set-up through which the political game is played always ensures that parliament draws its power not necessarily from that of its individual members, but rather from its collective body. Few people today contest the fact that this has been one of our strongest parliaments. The recent decisions which the government took towards increasing degrees of freedoms granted to citizens can be clearly attributed to the presence of a parliament sympathetic to these demands, and regardless of whether it is parliament or the government which is presently taking the initiative. This leads to the conclusion that the presence of a parliament, any parliament, always outweighs its absence.

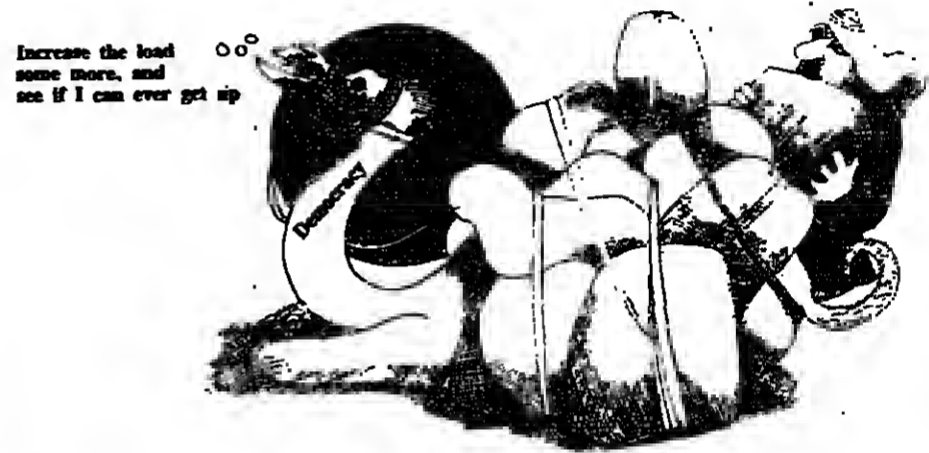
The Third lesson that we as a society have learned from the past four months is that Jordanians have demonstrated they are a pluralistic society. The results of the last election have shown that regardless of the way electoral districts were defined, regardless of the percentage of voter turnout, regardless of all the details, shortcomings or positive points in the electoral law, Jordanians have elected members of parliament from all walks of the political spectrum. Signs are today that all existing or upcoming political parties are going to respect this freedom of choice. It is an extremely healthy sign when a party like the Muslim Brotherhood declares through its parliamentary spokesman that it can accept the existence of a Communist Party. It shows the willingness of political parties to listen not only to the wishes of their own constituencies, but to those of the state as well. This is the maturity and the attitude that is needed so that we can join forces in solving the country's problems. Parliament members, have so far, despite the obvious political inexperience of many of them and the lack of established parliamentary procedures, displayed a remarkable ability to work together. Jordanians are also pleasantly surprised to realise that the existence of political parties with ideologies different from their own is not a good reason to question the future of the country on. The experiences of the last four months have gone beyond any, indeed often contrary to our, educational upbringing in teaching us the concept of tolerance of other ideas.

Fourth, the ability of Jordanians to adapt should never be underestimated: If someone would have predicted five months ago the transformations that Jordan has gone through in such an orderly, peaceful and responsible manner, I would have told him then that it was next to impossible. Yet this society has proven that it can absorb shocks, react to calamity with reason, effect change and respond to it with determination and level-headedness. It is true that this society had its share of unrest,

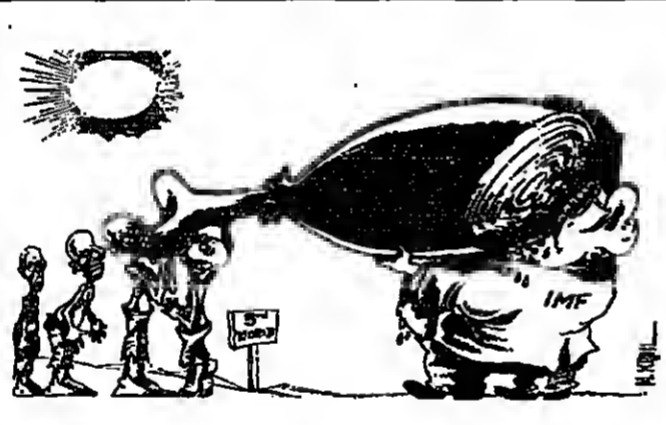
riots, witch-hunting, uncertainty and frustration. But this should not cloud the fact that it is also dealing with its problems with far less chaotic behaviour than in many parts around the world. Thus apparent, if surprising, ability to adapt should be accentuated and encouraged. It is a trait we will badly need to guide us through our economic crisis while simultaneously building our political institutions.

Lesson number five is that contrary to earlier fears, democracy has made Jordan stronger. The net result of free elections coupled with both the government's and parliament's clear commitment to an orderly transition to a power sharing system has been to give Jordan added weight as a democratic country. Instead of past fears that democracy can destabilise Jordan, the fact is today that Jordan enjoys more respect, and hence more strength, among neighbouring Arab countries in particular and the international community in general. Instead of often being on the receiving end of regional politics, Jordan for the first time is becoming a trend setter in the area, influencing perceptions by the people of their social and political conditions. A tremendous positive element has been added to the already good reputation Jordan enjoys in the world. It is an element we can and should take advantage from.

I hope the conclusion here is not taken to mean that the picture is rosy in Jordan. It is far from that yet. We have so much homework to do. Many Jordanians have simply lost hope in the political or economic future of this country. Others are leaving. Private investment is yet to pick up. But we should also make no mistake about it. There is a lot of good that has come out of the experience of the last four months. Sometimes, it tends to be overshadowed by the bigger problems facing us. We should never, however, lose track of it. There are already several positive points in our society that we can continue to stress and build on. And if the coming period keeps producing the same mature attitudes that we have seen in the first four months of the life of our parliament, I, for one, can only be hopeful.



Mahmoud Sadeq — Sawt Al Shaab



Latin America's democracy threatened by debt

By Anthony Bondle
Reuters

SANTIAGO — Chile's return to democracy has turned a page on over two decades of military dictatorship in Latin America, but the region's debts threaten to undermine its new-found political freedom.

"Latin America is a volcano that is about to erupt," Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said during the inauguration of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, who took office on Mar. 11, ending 16 years of military rule.

Leaders and intellectuals say Latin America's \$416 billion debt has impoverished their countries and caused social problems which could reverse an unprecedented move to democratic government.

Austerity measures applied in oil-rich Venezuela sparked riots in which at least 180 people were killed in February, just 15 days after Perez was sworn in for a second term.

"If Venezuela is not able to reschedule its foreign debt, the sacrifices that brought this social explosion will never bear fruit," Perez told a news conference in Santiago.

The departure of Chile's General Augusto Pinochet marks the first time in South America's history that all its independent nations are living under elected governments.

Eleven Latin American countries have held elections since March last year, including Nicaragua where the Sandinistas have agreed to hand over power Peru, Colombia and Guatemala will go to the polls this year.

In Brazil, the third world's largest debtor nation, the first directly elected president in 29 years, Fernando Collor de Mello, was scheduled to take office on Mar. 15.

During the 1980's one military regime after another gave way to civilian rule. But new governments have failed to solve severe economic problems and raise living standards, discrediting elected leaders.

Economic crises forced Argentina's Raul Alfonsin to resign the presidency six months before his term ended last year. His successor, Carlos Menem, has so far failed to tackle economic stagnation and the galloping inflation that soared to almost 5,000 per cent in 1989.

Once the region's richest nation, Argentina has been rocked by waves of looting by hungry inhabitants in major cities.

Latin Americans fear the West's new focus on Eastern Europe will divert badly needed aid and investment away from their continent during the 1990's, compounding the region's difficulties.

Experts say democracy will not prevail in Latin America unless the drain of resources into debt servicing is reversed.

The net flow of funds out of the region last year totalled \$25 billion, almost one-fifth of total exports, according to the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL).

Only five Latin countries were up to date with interest payments in 1989, while three of the largest debtors, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela, were for the first time simultaneously overdue.

Communists remain influential in S. Africa

By Barry Reinfrew
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Despite the failure of Communist regimes around the world, the south African Communist Party remains an influential and popular force that has not given up its goal of a Socialist state.

While its actual membership is tiny, many blacks respect the South African Communist Party because of its prominent role in opposing the country's white-minority government. Red Communist flags and slogans are common in black townships and at anti-government demonstrations.

Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader released Feb. 11 after 27 years in

prison, hailed the party in his first speech on the day he left prison. "I salute the South African Communist Party for its sterling contribution to the struggle for democracy... we are heartened by the fact that the alliance between ourselves and the party remains as strong as it always was," he said.

The party's call for a Socialist state and a redistribution of wealth also appeals to many poor blacks who see the white-dominated capitalist economy as a pillar of apartheid. Communists claim that whites, who make up less than 15 per cent of the population, control 98 per cent of South Africa's wealth.

Joe Slovo, the white secretary-

general of the party, says the biggest question facing south Africa beyond ending white-minority rule is how to handle the economy.

"The fundamental aim of economic policy must be the redistribution of wealth," he said in a recent statement.

President F.W. de Klerk legalised the Communist Party and other anti-government groups Feb. 2 to help start talks on ending white-minority rule and sharing political power with the black majority. The party, founded in 1921, was banned in 1950, but operated underground in south Africa with headquarters in Zambia.

For years the South African

government vehemently denounced the party, portraying its members as Soviet agents plotting to build a Marxist slave state. government officials routinely claimed that black nationalist groups were Communist fronts. Little is known about the highly secretive party. Estimates of its strength range from a few hundred members to a few thousand members with the communists refusing to give any detailed information on the party.

The secrecy makes it difficult to assess the party's strength or evaluate what role it may play in South Africa's future. It appears to have considerable influence within some black political and labour groups.

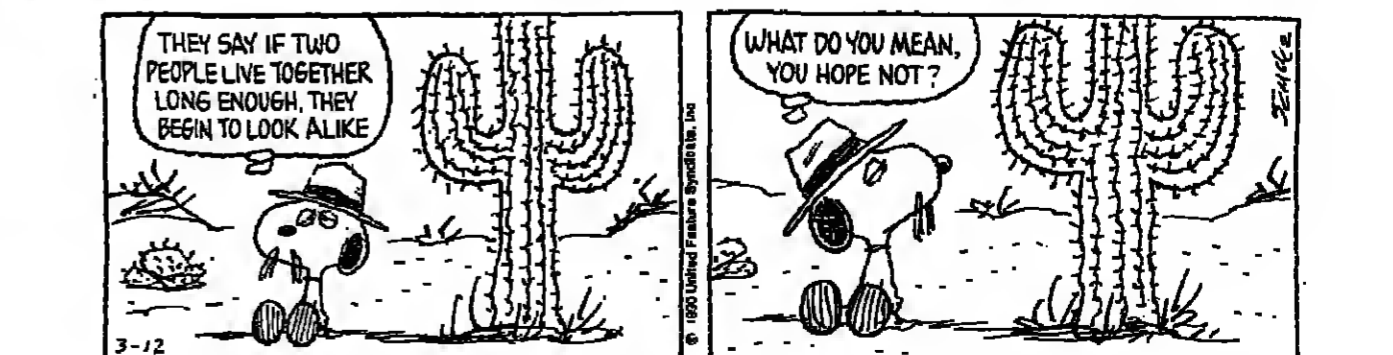
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordan develops attack vehicle

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — A group of be-douins from Jordan's legendary Desert Patrol are resting their camels while they roar across sand and rock in what looks like a stripped-down beach buggy.

The buggy is a lightweight fast attack vehicle designed in Amman at the Jordan Technology Group (JTG), a private firm that is trying to put the country on the world's high-technology map.

JTG's chief executive Amin Badreddin says the vehicle was partly inspired by victories scored by Chadian soldiers using Toyota pickups against Libyan tanks in the North African desert.

"The fast attack vehicle (FAV) is a cost-effective way of fighting armoured intrusions," he told Reuters. "It's low to the ground, fast, highly manoeuvrable and has a low infra-red signature."

In computer simulations the FAV has been "dropped" from heights of up to 20 metres to determine its suitability for parachute drops and its resilience to some of the toughest desert terrain in the world.

JTG has now asked the Desert Patrol to put two prototypes through their paces.

Badreddin said the computer-designed vehicle could be fitted with machine guns, anti-tank missiles or anti-aircraft missiles and could also be used for border surveillance.

The Desert Patrol, the Air Force and the Special Forces have all shown interest in the car, he said.

Applied Engineering, the firm which designed it, is a tenant of JTG, which provides office space, start-up money and other services to young entrepreneurs.

It hopes to start production in June using parts made by local sub-contractors and imported air-cooled engines.

JTG, which has a majority stake in the venture, wants to secure a niche for Jordan as a manufacturing base for U.S. arms companies interested in the competitive Middle East market.

"Changes in Eastern Europe and U.S. budget constraints mean U.S. military suppliers have to look beyond the United States and Europe," Badreddin said.

"The market for conventional arms in this region is still buoyant, so there is scope for them to consider teaming and sub-contracting work in Jordan, where costs are very low particularly after the depreciation of the dinar," he added.

JTG was set up in 1988 with a capital of JD 1.3 million dinars (\$1.9 million) to promote Jordan as an Arab centre for technology transfer and maintenance services.

It wants to attract firms in the Far East who could use Jordan, which has favourable trade and tariff agreements with the United States and Europe, as a base for re-exports.

Enjoying close links with Jordan's government and armed forces, JTG has the personal backing of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Other projects backed by JTG range from the manufacture of thermal imaging equipment and maintenance of night-vision goggles to the production of date palms by tissue culture and development of a new concept in computer software.

JTG has acquired land just outside Amman for a science park which it hopes will house profit-making new ventures matching international technology companies and local entrepreneurs.

Badreddin said the park would have a market intelligence unit as well as a world trade centre office offering access to business data and international market information.

It would also have a government liaison office to help tenant companies pick their way through Jordanian red tape.

Last year JTG entered a joint venture with Schweizer Aircraft Corporation of New York to co-produce Schweizer model 330 helicopters for export to the Middle East and North Africa.

Badreddin said production of the helicopters, originally planned to start in February, has been delayed for at least six months by U.S. certification procedures.

The venture will draw on under-utilised facilities and manpower of the air force, as well as a project that aims to expand a jet engine overhaul facility run by the Royal Jordanian national airline.



Hisham Edghaim at work

Hisham Edghaim: Nothing stands in the way of talent

By Nelly Lama

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Walking around the exhibition now held in The Royal Cultural Centre training hall, one sees a miscellany of academic paintings that follow a gradual ascent towards a mature style. One is touched by the gentleness, the fine decorative spirit and the strength found in the works. Little does one expect the young artist to be a quadriplegic who holds the brush in his mouth to paint.

"I was painting since I was very young and I loved it," recounts the artist, Hisham Edghaim. "Ten years ago, a diving accident in Saudi Arabia left me completely disabled. On a trip to the United States, my father was given the book 'Joni', a biography of an artist who suffered similar injuries and who was writing and drawing with her mouth. I started experimenting right away."

His talent surfaced once more. Backed by the Aramco Fine Arts Group and exhibiting with them annually, he finally exhibited at the King Faisal University. Hisham was soon summoned by Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and awarded a 2-year scholarship to Gothenburg University in Sweden where he tried to coordinate his mouth-to-eye focus to order out to get dazed from the closeness of the paper. Once he could handle that, he started to learn colour mixing and painting. In due time, he earned a membership in the Mouth and Foot Painters' Society in Liechtenstein and claims 252 members. From the works of these paraplegic artists, the society prints greeting cards and calendars in which Hisham's works appear. He also receives a small income from them.

"It was not easy to become a member," he explains. "One had to show his work, to sit for exams and to be accepted. I am probably the youngest member."

Having acquired Swedish citizenship, Hisham now lives in that country in an apartment that is custom-made for him; movable sinks, tables etc. "When they were building the apartment, they came to me to see how they could fit everything to my needs," Hisham explains. "Now I can almost manage on my own."

From the generous spirit of the Swedes, Hisham learned that it was now his turn to contribute. "I

want to help the handicapped in Jordan. I met with the kids at the Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped. I painted in front of them and they were speechless. I was almost in tears seeing how I created new hopes for them. When I go back to Sweden, I shall try to send them more equipment to fulfill their needs."

As for Hisham's exhibition here in Jordan, it includes studies of international masterworks. His Chinese style paintings are studies of spatial relationships with fish swimming in water and plants hanging down decoratively while much of the space is left open creating a sense of lightness.

He also paints sensitive landscapes, creates dramatic light effects, and adds beautiful cloud formations. The landscape is often stylised into intensely contrasted spaces, or into gradual but subtle tonalities.

This gradual progression of tones reappears in the plumage of his 'Birds'. He paints the gentle sparrow rendered in detail of texture and colour. For the sky and grass he uses wet brushstrokes and open space. The birds



Parakeet — a painting worth of "Audubon"

stand on barbed wire, the only solid mass in the painting. But the undulations of the wires and their shades relieve the horizontal line so that it does not cut through but blends beautifully with the picture. He juxtaposes an exotic parakeet on a background filled with pine branches creating fine linear patterns behind the bright solid mass of the parakeet. He also paints the falcon that is so dear to Gulf Arabs, among whom he lived most of his life.

He paints a self-portrait where his features are veiled by the wet texture yet are clearly recognisable. It is a double portrait set against diagonal space that expresses his inner psychology. In another self portrait in profile. With a brush in his mouth, all volumes and brushstrokes seem to pull one's eye down towards the painbrush, now his raison d'être.

He paints his own version of the works of the masters. He repaints a portrait of Swedish Queen Victoria with light playing in the intricacies of the folds of her dress. He then applies the same effect to a portrait of his grandmother which has simpler forms but the same chiaroscuro that almost dissects her figure.

We find a good rendering of light and volume in his still life paintings, but his best volumes, although foreshortened form, appear in his pencil drawings of Michelangelo's sculptures. The heavy volumes of Mary's bending face in the Roman 'Pietà' and the folds of her veil, drawn in foreshortened perspective, allow an open space below them. While the head and torso of "Dawn" from the tomb of Lorenzo de Medici in Florence are compressed in space, accentuating the strength of the volumes, Dawn's head pulls the whole composition back in a terse contraposto that creates new depth and dimension with the format. Hisham is tantalised with the strong almost 'male' musculature that Michelangelo gives his women.

Hisham's great output ought to serve as a good lesson to other artists. His courage and determination should push them to work harder. It should also be an incentive to the handicapped, whether physically or emotionally, to pick up their tools and start. The exhibition will go on until the 25th of March in the training hall to the right of the entrance of the Royal Cultural Center.

Randa Habib's
Corner

The Couple

LAST WEEK two questions popped up in my mind, and I still couldn't find an answer to either of them. The first question is how can the deputies manage to be present everywhere and under the dome at the same time. The second one is how can the prime minister and his ministers find the time to run the state's affairs and meet the growing demands of 80 deputies representing 3.4 million people in eight governorates.

The work of the executive and legislative branches should be spoused to the benefit of society and towards the wellbeing of constituencies. And this new "marital" arrangement between the two bodies, necessitates that "the couple" meet frequently to arrive at a common ground and mutual understanding. The meetings per se are healthy and quite wanted but the venue, length and cause of the get together remain questionable.

The situation, however, is different as many deputies, often flanked by active citizens, would make a sudden appearance at a minister's door for an immediate meeting. The people's representatives who do not always take appointments in advance as the issues they raise are almost

always classified under "top priority" may cause nuisance to the officials' secretaries who already have tight schedules for their bosses.

The other day, I was told that a high ranking official met 15 deputies in a row and many of them presented almost identical cases.

The same official meets an average of eight to nine deputies a day. This sounds as a reflection of a deep relationship. That is great. But what about some sort of arrangement wherein deputies air their views and present their cases either under the dome or on the fringes of Parliament sessions during meetings with concerned ministers. The rest of the week, both the ministers and deputies can go about handling their respective affairs.

After all, excessive encounters can always be counter-productive and the most intimate relationships are likely to pass through the ups and downs if they are not bound by set rules. We hate to think of a potential "divorce" between the two parents that run the Jordanian family at a time the country is in need of efforts of all parties.

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Kuwait banks may drop 'dinar cartel'

ABU DHABI (R) — Kuwait's major banks may decide to drop their dinar dealing cartel due to an increasing amount of corporate business being done outside the country because of it, Gulf bankers said Wednesday.

The central bank did not impose the cartel on the banks but if they do drop the scheme, it could be a sign of a significant shift in central bank policy, the bankers, in Abu Dhabi for an Arab Monetary Fund meeting, said.

The cartel basically sets minimum selling and buying rates based on the central bank's daily fixed rates against the dollar.

At the heart of the issue is the ever increasing lake of dinar funds, generated by Kuwait's oil wealth, which cannot find a home in the domestic economy.

Over the past few years, the authorities have sought to staunch the outflow of funds, especially at times when it threatened to become a flood.

Banks in Bahrain which can offer better terms to dinar customers have been one of the beneficiaries of new Kuwait business, the bankers said.

"Kuwait continues to be a major capital exporter and there will not be enough alternative opportunities in Kuwait for a long time," said a Bahrain-based Arab banker.

"The regulations put on bank dinar business have led to a new importance for the non-banking sector as a major recycler of Kuwaiti liquidity," he said.

The best efforts of the central bank, helped by such schemes as the commercial bank dinar dealing cartel, cannot escape that fact but they can create an orderly outflow.

In 1986, the threat of political instability due to an escalation in the Iran-Iraq war, and a collapse in world oil prices which made Kuwaitis suspect an imminent devaluation to preserve the dinar value of dollar-denominated oil prices, caused a significant increase in capital outflow, Kuwaiti economists said.

The economists believe the authorities and the banks may feel it is time to free the market a bit more now that the two main factors which frightened dinar holders out of their own currency have disappeared.

Regulations include maximum rates on deposits, limits on the amount Kuwait banks can borrow from the central bank without evidence of commercial activity and rules discouraging offshore dinar lending, the bankers said.

The banks have been discussing the idea of dropping the year-old cartel for some time, wondering if the guaranteed profit from the fixed spread was not losing them more profits by discouraging customs, the bankers said.

Management of the dinar by the central bank in Kuwait, the Gulf Arab country with the longest tradition of developed capital markets, has been subtle.

In the last resort, the authorities use the obvious interest rate mechanism to control the exchange rate. In 1986, dinar rates

Kohl reassures East Germans on savings

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, campaigning in East Germany for speedy unification, has assured people in the economically weak country that their savings will be converted one-to-one into West German marks.

Kohl's promise Tuesday night appeared timed to rally support for a conservative three-party alliance competing in East Germany's free elections Sunday.

The alliance is supported by Kohl's Christian Democratic Union in Bonn. It faces the revamped Communist Party, which is campaigning on the idea that East Germany's social safety net and full employment are endangered by a hastily takeover by West German capitalists.

Kohl's government is pushing for merging the East German mark with its West German counterpart, one of the world's strongest currencies.

Among the thorniest issues in the proposed monetary union, which would be a prerequisite for full unity, is how to treat East German savings.

East German citizens currently would get only about 0.16 West

German marks for their currency at a Western bank, a 6:1 ratio reflecting the relative weakness of the East German economy.

Kohl's assurance echoed similar statements by members of his government.

In his speech at a campaign appearance in Cottbus, East Germany, he also reiterated a call for speedy movement toward unity under article 23 of the West German constitution. The clause allows individual East German states to decide to join West Germany any time.

"Economy still strong"

West Germany is set to continue last year's robust growth, which will help it deal with the changes in East Germany and the rest of Eastern Europe, Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said Wednesday in Bonn.

He said there were signs the West German economy, Europe's biggest, was growing strongly this year after expanding by four per cent in 1989.

This meant Bonn was also well armed to tackle the challenges posed by the completion of a

China negotiating with Soviet Union for nuclear power plant

PEKING (AP) — China is negotiating with the Soviet Union to build a 2,000-megawatt nuclear power plant to help meet the country's soaring energy needs, Energy Minister Huang Yicheng said Wednesday.

The two-reactor plant, to be located along the coast of northeast China's Liaoning province, would be the country's third and largest.

Huang would not elaborate on the discussions, but Western

news reports have said China would barter for the power plant.

China already has two nuclear power plants under construction. A 300-megawatt plant at Qinshan, in coastal Zhejiang province, is due to begin operating by the end of this year, five years after construction began.

A second plant, the 1,300-megawatt Daya Bay nuclear plant in southern Guangdong province, began construction in 1987 and its two reactors are to go on-line in

1992 and 1993. The plant has created a controversy in Hong Kong, just 50 kilometres away, because of safety concerns, but Huang said proposals for more plants in Guangdong are being studied.

Chinese officials have said they expect nuclear power to supply half the nation's electric energy by the year 2050.

Coal now provides 70 per cent of China's electric energy, but pollution is a growing problem and inadequate transportation makes it impossible to meet growing demand.

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Banks in Bahrain carve out new niche

BAHRAIN (R) — Foreign banks in Bahrain who weathered the Gulf recession of the mid-1980s are carving out a new niche for themselves as higher oil prices generate fresh opportunities in the region.

Western bankers say that although problem loans and competition from local banks have eroded traditional corporate lending, there is more scope now for specialised finance as new industry projects take off and local banks diversify operations.

Although many banks left Bahrain's offshore banking centre when the heavy oil boom days ended, others who stayed have expanded their treasury and credit departments as well as their correspondent and transactional banking services.

"During the boom period, international banks were filling a void here — there was a tremendous demand for credit services," Zakir Mahmoud, vice president of Bank of America told Reuters.

"Now local banks have become more sophisticated so if you do what you did 10 years ago you're essentially out of business... but prospects are good for banks who can deliver different products and specialised financing skills," he said.

Bankers say although major infrastructure projects are now complete, Gulf Arab states are poised to enter a new period of industrial growth as petrochemical, gas and aluminium projects shelved during the recession are revived.

They also anticipate billions of dollars of expenditure on expansion on oil facilities as Arab Gulf states — who control two thirds of the world's known reserves — step up their output capacity to meet growing world demand.

"We expect huge investment expenditure in the whole Gulf in terms of its oil industry, petrochemicals, gas and aluminium," Mohammad Al Shroogi, general manager of Citibank Bahrain

was pushed up above dollar rates.

But local economists, applying technical currency analysis, have concluded that the authorities effectively devalued the dinar after 1986, but without any headline announcements.

The technical analysis detected a breakdown in 1986 in how the dinar rate was being determined against the dollar and concluded that the basket of currencies on which the central bank calculated the dinar rate was changed.

The central bank dinar fix being shown Wednesday was 0.29356/66 to the dollar. In 1986, the average annual rate was 0.29189, the analyst said. The dollar has dropped heavily against other major currencies in the meantime.

Financial analysts estimate the bank's reserves anywhere between 10 billion and 45 billion dollars (\$1.3 billion and \$5.8 billion) but all admit they are guessing.

"When these international banks do move, I'm sure the bank board will reconsider the position," Purves said.

Share analysts who estimate the bank's current net asset value at 6.52 dollars (\$4 U.S. cents) a share, forecast this would surge to 11 dollars (\$14.00) if the secret reserve levels were disclosed, boosting the share price in the process.

Published reserves currently stand at 38.13 billion dollars (\$4.9 billion) up from 22.83 billion in 1988 (\$2.9 billion).

Purves declared a total dividend of 42 cents (5.4 U.S. cents) versus 36.36 (4.7 U.S. cents) in 1988 and proposed a one-for-10 bonus share issue.

Expectations that the bank would end 125 years of secrecy began growing when it acquired a 14.9 per cent stake in Britain's Midland Bank in 1987.

The Bank of England rejected the Hongkong bank's 1981 bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland, but financial analysts speculate the Hong Kong giant plans to try to break into Britain's inner banking circles again through a merger with Midland.

The move would require disclosure of reserves.

A three-year standstill agreement between the two banks expires in December, 1990, but should a merger go through, the tie-up would create the world's 11th to 13th largest bank, banking sources say.

"I don't believe you can merge two large entities too quickly," Purves said.

The Hongkong bank and Standard Chartered Bank issue the colony's banknotes and take it in turns to head the Hong Kong Association of Banks, which fixes the prime rate.

Trading house Jardine Matheson, one of the first to set up shop in Hong Kong after it was colonised in 1842, established the trend in 1984 by shifting its domicile to Bermuda, but Purves denied the Hongkong bank would follow suit.

Foreign investment limit bills flourish in U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — At last six major legislative proposals currently before Congress would in some way restrict foreign investment in the United States, panelists at a meeting on international investment have said.

Further restrictions on foreign investment are gaining increasing popular support in the United States, according to the panel of international trade and investment experts, in view of public fears of such recent Japanese direct investments in Colombia Pictures and Rockefeller Centre.

"The fear of foreign investment has reached epidemic proportions," Susan Lieberman, former chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission, said.

"Armed with innuendo, hyperbole and anecdotal evidence, a burgeoning cottage industry of writers and commentators claim that foreign investors, particularly Japanese investors, are buying the soul of America."

The panel, part of a meeting on international investment sponsored by the California Department of Commerce, also included Stephen Canner, director of the office of international investment at the U.S. Department of Treasury; Samuel Rosenblatt, president of the Association for Inter-

national Investment; and George Washington University Professor Sudan Tolchin.

Among the legislative proposals cited by the panel are:

— One that would extend current restrictions on foreign ownership of U.S. broadcast media to cable properties;

— A bill, introduced by Congressman Tom Campbell, that would restrict a country's investors in the United States if that country failed to give U.S. investors treatment equal to that provided its domestic investors;

— A proposal, introduced by Senator Donald Riegle, which would permit banking agencies to limit future expansion of foreign-owned banks and bank holding companies and permit dealers by foreign companies.

The restriction would apply where the Secretary of the Treasury has determined that their home countries do not provide the same competitive opportunities to U.S. firms as are available to domestic competitors.

— A bill that would give the Secretary of Transportation broad authority to block certain investments in U.S. airlines where the investment would effect a transfer of control to foreign persons.

Hongkong bank posts 11 per cent profit rise

HONG KONG (R) — The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, regarded by bankers as the largest bank in Asia outside Japan, posted an excellent profit for 1989.

Despite economic slowdowns in all the bank's major markets net profits in 1989 rose to 4.77 billion dollars (\$612 million) from 4.3 billion (\$550 million) in 1988, Chairman William Purves told shareholders.

But investors who stayed late in the office hoping Purves would reveal one of the British colony's best-kept secrets, the size of the bank's inner reserves, remained in ignorance.

"We are told, but it's not for certain, that by 1992 Britain and Europe will be on full disclosure," Purves told reporters.

"They are not yet on full disclosure. Swiss and German banks have not moved in 1989 and neither have we."

Financial analysts estimate the bank's reserves anywhere between 10 billion and 45 billion dollars (\$1.3 billion and \$5.8 billion) but all admit they are guessing.

"When these international banks do move, I'm sure the bank board will reconsider the position," Purves said.

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THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

- Lamb
- Supplies a
- Sch
- Musical group
- Much
- Chilled
- Stars in
- Iron or copper
- Rigorous
- Astonishes
- Before color or
- Time period
- Antelopes
- Tells tales
- The Way
- Table scraps
- Season
- Isr. native
- Literary
- Collection
- U.S. missile
- Conger
- Doone
- Like peas
- in
- Weathercock
- Boil
- Leaves
- TV series
- RVSP word
- Ma Taylor to
- Simple
- Lens of song
- Triple crown
- Mountain
- Ridge
- See 41A
- Left-hand
- page
- A Lanchester
- Lab vessel
- Lawmaker
- Abbr.
- Snow vehicle
- Olmonds

DOWN

- Roads
- Cafe au
- Picnic
- author
- Speech
- Cartographer's
- item
- Skiing milieu
- Some songs
- Swagger
- Squeeze
- la la
- 11 Urs Minor
- Responsibility
- Yale students
- Religious
- letters
- Gullit
- Shasa
- la la
- 28 Objective
- Yes
- (talltumi)
- Astronomers
- Casa room
- Circuit
- Tramped
- Lease
- Beverages
- Group of
- notables
- March date
- Sea eagles
- Hillock
- Celtic
- AK Island
- Hindu queen
- "I smell"
- Mao --- Tung
- Youngster

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. LAMB 2. SUPPLIES 3. SCH 4. MUSICAL GROUP 5. MUCH 6. CHILLED 7. STARS IN 8. IRON OR COPPER 9. RIGOROUS 10. ASTONISHES 11. BEFORE COLOR OR 12. TIME PERIOD 13. ANTILOPES 14. TELLS TALES 15. THE WAY 16. TABLE SCRAPS 17. SEASON 18. ISRAELI 19. LITERARY 20. COLLECTION 21. U.S. MISSILE 22. CONGER 23. DOONE 24. LIKE PEAS 25. IN 26. WEATHERCOCK 27. BOIL 28. LEAVES 29. TV SERIES 30. RVSP WORD 31. MA TAYLOR TO 32. SIMPLE 33. LENS OF SONG 34. TRIPLE CROWN 35. MOUNTAIN 36. RIDGE 37. SEE 41A 38. LEFT-HAND 39. PAGE 40. A LANCHESTER 41. LAB VESSEL 42. LAWMAKER 43. ABBR. 44. SNOW VEHICLE 45. OLMONDS

| LONDON EXCHANGE RATES | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|--|
| Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday. | | | |
| One Sterling | 1.6060/70 | U.S. dollars | |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1723/35 | Canadian dollar | |
| | 1.7123/30 | Deutsche marks | |
| | 1.9280/90 | Dutch guilders | |
| | 1.5230/35 | Swiss francs | |
| | 35.53/58 | Belgian francs | |
| | 5.7835/85 | French francs | |
| | 1263/264 | Italian lire | |
| | 152.10/20 | Japanese yen | |
| | 6.1845/95 | Swedish crowns | |
| | 6.6130/80 | Norwegian crowns | |
| | 6.5590/640 | Danish crowns | |
| One ounce of gold | 399.00/399.40 | U.S. dollars | |

| AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Wednesday, March 14, 1990 | | | |
| Central Bank official rates | | | |
| U.S. dollar | Buy | Sell | |
| Pound Sterling | 671.0 | 670.5 | |
| Deutsche mark | 1078.2 | 1084.8 | |
| Swiss franc | 392.0 | 394.4 | |
| Italian lire (for 100) | 441.1 | 443.2 | |
| French franc | 116.0 | 116.7 | |
| Japanese yen (for 100) | 440.6 | 442.2 | |
| Dutch guilder | 348.1 | 350.2 | |
| Swedish crown | 108.4 | 109.1 | |
| Belgian franc (for 100) | 53.1 | 53.4 | |
| British pound (for 100) | 189.2 | 190.3 | |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Share prices closed broadly easier but off their lows in modest trade after zigzagging up and down for much of the day. The Nikkei Index fell 268.44 to 32,352.13.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended easier in healthy turnover, brokers said. The Hang Seng Index fell 6.39 points to 2,881.23.

SINGAPORE — The market closed mixed with both the Straits Times Industrial Index and the OTC index falling due to blue chip losses and other index stocks. The Straits Times Index closed 0.37 down at 1,564.81.

BOMBAY — Share prices beat a hasty retreat after a 10 per cent hike in freight rates proposed in the railway budget for fiscal 1990/91 disappointed the market, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — West German shares more than reversed early gains to close slightly lower as news of an East German politician's resignation unsettled the market. The Dax closed down 4.64 at 1862.84.

ZURICH — Shares closed lower but a small rally towards the end helped prices to recover some ground lost earlier in the session. The SPI Index lost 4.3 to 1,097.0.

PARIS — French share prices ended sharply higher after a recovery on French and Germany bond markets injected vigour into a listless market. The CAC-40 index ended 22.07 points up at 1,946.37.

LONDON — Shares remained firm in extremely quiet business here after earlier gains established on light technical demand. At 1639 GMT the FTSE was 2.2 up at 2,226.7.

NEW YORK — Share prices, supported by a rise in bonds, remained modestly ahead in late morning trading, but blue chips were below their highs. The Dow Jones industrial average was up six to 2681.

HOROSCOPE

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 15, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a fine morning and evening for you to make a big point if getting all your affairs on a solid and secure structure, of looking directly at your material foundation for making any improvements that are needed.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are entering a period in which new, interesting acquaintances will come into your life. You and your mate will gain the goodwill of kin and friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Benefits will come more regularly now from the services you routinely perform. You can talk and work out any family problem with your mate now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Join with powerful friends and outside talented persons in social pleasures. Being tender and loving with your attachment brings you both much happiness.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your happiest social moments now will be with close members of your own family. Busy yourself with the personal life that most charms you at home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to accept social invitations today at whatever hour from good friends. Look carefully into every facet of your business or finances now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go with longtime friends today to satisfying places of entertainment. A delay in a plan made by you and your mate will work out to your advantage.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A trip with a good friend and an outside contact could not but to everyone's benefit. Sudden opportunity for you and your mate to go on a jaunt should be taken.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can be optimistic now that your activities will have beneficial results. You can resolve any problem now existing with attachment by understanding attitude.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you can enjoy social activities at places where good food is served. Your ideas are good for improving the decor at your own residence.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your happiest social time now will be at entertainments with an interesting couple. A fine day to invite younger persons into your home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Cultivate both creative acquaintances and business friends socially. More romantic interest shown by you will make attachment happy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A variety of persons close to you will aid in new ways to be successful. Romantic well-being is fine under your own roof with you and mate.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 16, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day in it be most outgoing in expressing your concern for your fellow man and to extend the finest philosophy of life under which you live, to others who can benefit from your example....

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Communicating with friends at a distance can bring you beneficial results. You and your mate can have a happy time visiting friends, neighbours and close kin.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A real opportunity is now yours to expand your activities in greater depth. A good day to get everything around your home in fine condition.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your own ideas for increasing your daily activities now are clever and dynamic. A very good time to intelligently plan the future with your attachment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your happiness at some social activities should now continue unabated. Showing more emotional fervor will please your mate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Difficulties are just behind you, so full speed ahead in usual activities. Changes in social contacts can bring you more pleasure at recreation, entertainment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Pending relations of a social nature with upset friends should be put off until a better moment. Try to put a little more colour and zest into your daily tasks.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A couple of differently-viewed friendships should be encouraged today. Accept delays and obstacles in the way of seeing close companions and relatives now.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Private talks with family members about adding to home prosperity can be very productive. Happiness with mate now depends on a perfect understanding.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A new approach at bringing more happiness to your attachment can be very successful. Friends will be very cooperative so enjoy social activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Additions or changes at your home are now indicated as advisable. Keep showering love and affection on your attachment.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) To avoid confusion plan every aspect of your present duties very carefully. A great time for you to entertain family and companions and to be happy at home.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The time is not ripe for you to put your creative ideas into your business. This is the time for much activity building your fones at home.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Amolo and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NILEN

LUNNA

RENOCE

MOSHAN

WHAT THAT BLACKGUARD WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A O O O O WITHOUT A

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIECE, SANDY, KINGLY, ENCAMP. Answer: Their kid's college education seemed to be just this—PIGSKIN DEEP.

Karpov, Timman draw in world chess final

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Former World Champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union and Jan Timman of the Netherlands played to a draw after 38 moves in the fifth game of the world candidates chess final Wednesday.

Both players repeated the opening moves from the first game, which Timman lost in just 36 moves. Timman's willingness to repeat the opening in today's game led to speculation that he and his team of seconds had found an improvement for white.

On his 18th move, Timman varied from the first game, playing 18 RAE3 instead of 18 NE4. Karpov seemed to have expected this as he played 18 A4, countering Timman's plan of B3 and B2.

Timman showed better preparation in the opening when on his

20th move, he made a pawn capture causing Karpov to sink into deep thought before recapturing with his own pawn. This allowed Timman to build up a strong attacking position with the advance of his king pawn to E5.

By move 23, the grandmasters gathered in the press room felt that white held the advantage. But Karpov showed great defensive skill by exchanging his bishop for a knight to take the edge off white's attack. Karpov maneuvered his knight to a strong post in the centre, suddenly blunting white's attack.

After move 30 RXE5 white's attacking chances were clearly greatly reduced, whereas Karpov's pieces were dangerously placed in the centre, threatening Timman's king. Timman's defence was to put his king on F1

and sacrifice another pawn.

When Timman played 35 BA2, Karpov overlooked the possibility of exchanging queens for an ending in which he has two extra pawns with the move 35... QD3 with Timman unable to play 36 KXE1 due to 36... NC2, 37 KF2 QE3, 38 KF1 QE1 mate. Instead, Karpov played 35 ND3 allowing perpetual check by Timman's queen.

In the press room, the grandmasters who were already analysing the ending after the exchange of queens, were stunned when news of the draw reached them.

Karpov leads the 12-game match with 2.5 points to Timman's 1.5 with one game adjourned. One point is awarded for a win and 0.5 point for a draw with the winner the player to reach 6.5 points first.



Tyson goes back to the basics

NEW YORK (R) — It's crunch time for Mike Tyson — and he is planning drastic action.

The former heavyweight champion, knocked out by James "Buster" Douglas last month, will return to the gym soon to work on an "excruciating" 90-minute exercise which he has not done in years, co-trainer Jay Bright said.

Bright, in a telephone interview from his home in upstate New York, said he and Tyson had held several long conversations about his loss to Douglas by a 10th round knockout in Tokyo Feb. 11.

"We're going to get a Willie," said Bright, referring to a type of punching bag with numbers on it which is mounted on a wall.

It teaches certain punch combinations, because "one punch causes a fighter (an opponent) to do something, which sets up other punches," Bright said.

The Willie with its numbered punch combinations is a system devised by Tyson's late trainer Cus D'Amato. Bright, who worked with D'Amato, is often heard during fights shouting number combinations to Tyson.

Apart from knocking Douglas down with one punch in the eighth round, Tyson showed little skill or power in the fight.

Bright said the drill with the Willie bag was "a 90-minute drill (with breathers) used for speed, power and coordination. It's an excruciating thing, but this is my opportunity to get him to work on it."

The implication was that Tyson's loss made him realise he must get back to basics.

Bright would not go into detail about his talks with Tyson, other

than to say that "as a champion you can't allow yourself to be content. If you're content you lose your desire."

Referring to Tyson's dismal performance against Douglas, Bright said: "There were distractions... it's a difficult thing. Michael and me were both taught by a very, very wise man (Cus D'Amato). At times it's hard to retain that wisdom."

"This time he's going to retain it."

Bright was unimpressed with Douglas's skills, comparing him to a Volkswagen racing against a Lamborghini.

"Douglas is a very ordinary fighter," Bright said. "He was like a Volkswagen in fifth gear and Michael never got out of first gear."

Bright said he would like Tyson to fight Douglas again in September but that a "lot of litigation has to be resolved first."

Douglas has filed a lawsuit trying to get out of a contract with Don King, who says he has the right to promote Douglas's next fight.

King in turn filed a lawsuit to hold Douglas to the contract, and billionaire real estate magnate Donald Trump is suing to make sure his Atlantic City Casino does not lose the next Tyson fight to Las Vegas.

When Tyson did fight again, Bright said he wanted the former scourge of the heavyweight division "to incite his enthusiasm and fan the fire of his desire."

"I want him to go in there absolutely dead calm, to get his belts back and get revenge for what happened in Tokyo."

Merle wins last slalom race of the season

KLOVSJO, Sweden (AP) — Carole Merle of France won the last women's World Cup Giant Slalom of the season Wednesday, beating Norwegian junior Julie Hansen by 35 hundredths of a second.

Merle won her fourth consecutive world race in a combined time of 2 minutes, 13.04 seconds.

Hansen, a 17-year-old skier in only her third cup competition, rallied from 10th to second after clocking the fastest time in the second run.

"It feels just great," grinned Hansen after one of the biggest surprises of the season. "I didn't make a mistake in the second run."

Hansen had a two-run total of 2:13.39. Third went to Mateja

Svet of Yugoslavia in 2:13.71. Defending overall champion Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, after missing gates in her last two slalom races, came back to finish fourth in 2:13.90.

Merle, 26, from Super Saunze in the southern French Alps, has been impressive in her last six races.

She was runnerup twice in a pair of downhill early last month at Veysonnaz, Switzerland, then captured two straight super G races at Meribel, France.

Last Saturday, she made it three wins in a row by winning the GS at Stranda.

Merle, who injured her knee last August in Las Lenas, Argentina, didn't make her comeback until late January. She moved to

sixth in the world cup overall standings with 177 points.

Petra Kronberger, trying to become Austria's first overall champion since Annemarie Moser-Proell in 1979, leads the standings with 326 points. She was ninth Wednesday.

Teammate Anita Wachter placed seventh and now has 294, cutting Kronberger's lead by two points. Only three races remain, a super G, a downhill and a slalom, at Are, Sweden, later this week.

Wachter has already clinched the season's GS championship. Svet came second and Kronberger third in the final standings.

The race marked the GS farewell for Swiss alpine star Maria Walliser, who's retiring after her 10th world cup season.

Greek soccer marred by corruption allegations

ATHENS (AP) — The Greek soccer world was rocked Tuesday by a newspaper's claim that First Division soccer games were being rigged with the help of referees.

The scandal came one day after the owner of a leading team was suspended for assaulting a television cameraman.

The Greek National Football Federation requested a judicial inquiry into the allegations published Tuesday that a "journalist and three referees were involved in rigging games."

It added that it was sending a delegation to consult with the Federation of International Football Association, or FIFA, in Zurich Friday.

The actions came after the newspaper Eleftherotypia published what it said was confidential letter sent to FIFA by referee Costas Dimitriadis Feb. 22. It did not say how it obtained the letter.

Dimitriadis was quoted as telling the international body that a journalist bribed referees to "alter the results of games."

The letter named the people allegedly involved and referred to specific instances this season — including games involving top team Olympiakos of Piraeus, Aek of Athens and Paok of Salonika.

Dimitriadis issued a statement later Tuesday claiming that the photocopied letter presented by Eleftherotypia was a forgery.

Eleftherotypia, however, stood by its report. A statement by the management said that the letter was genuine and that FIFA was fully aware of the charges.

Eleftherotypia claimed a week ago, before presenting Dimitriadis' letter, that FIFA was investigating charges of corruption in the soccer league.

The Greek union of soccer club owners, known as the association of professional football clubs, decided Monday to sue Eleftherotypia reporter Filippos Syrigos for making the allegations.

In a statement to chief prosecutor Avraam Stathopoulos Tuesday, however, the association acknowledged that some games may have been rigged, court sources said.

Meanwhile, Olympiakos, currently second in the First Division, began looking for a temporary chairman after owner Argyris Saliaris was suspended for three months and barred from attending games.

Saliaris was found guilty by a sports court Monday of assaulting a television cameraman during a break in a game between Olympiakos and league-leaders Panathinaikos Feb. 25.

Television viewers saw Saliaris striking Socrates Zappas, a cameraman for the state television ET-1, during a break in the game. At the time, Zappas was trying to film Panathinaikos' goalkeeper, who had been felled by a stone thrown by an Olympiakos fan.

Judge Christos Paleocostas said that Saliaris' actions "brought the sport of soccer into disrepute."

Olympiakos defender Theodoros Papatouridis was suspended for 40 days for pushing a linesman during the same game, and fan Thanassis Dedes was banned from attending games for a year. Dedes was found guilty of assaulting both the cameraman and the "linesman" during the break in the game.

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Young skiers face tough choices

STOWE, Vermont (AP) — When she was 17 and skiing on the U.S. development team, Anouk Patis was faced with the decision of a lifetime — go to college or continue the pursuit of a dream.

Patis chose education, but she thinks the U.S. ski programme should not push promising young skiers to a fork in the road at such an early age.

"The way the system is now, it's almost impossible to go to school" and still compete at the top level, she said after finishing third in the giant slalom at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships.

"When you're 15 or 16, college is the last thing you want to hear. The thing you want is the travel all over Europe."

For Alpine skiers and some parents with their eyes on international championship skiing or the prestigious world cup, or even

the Olympics, training is continuous.

There is a lot of money invested by parents at an early age to see their kids compete on an international level, said Pat Miller, the coach at the University of Utah, which won six NCAA championships in the 1980s.

Alpine skiers do not have the support of a system that uses college as a training ground, as do professional football, basketball and hockey.

College takes too much time and concentration for a skier with world class ambitions.

Chip Lacasse, the coach of NCAA defending champion Vermont, said that five years ago if an Alpine skier went to college, his or her career was over. He is trying to change that.

"The relationship between colleges and the U.S. ski team is really improving," he said. He is part of a special committee work-

ing with the two bodies and focusing on getting the national team not to discourage promising youngsters from going to college.

But even he acknowledges that Olympic and world cup prospects are skiing at a still higher level, which leaves "very little room to attend school."

"My feeling now is you can get a good education and good training, and if you're good enough, you can be brought onto the U.S. ski team," he said.

Patis' coach at Dartmouth, Ruff Patterson, a college skier who has coached for the U.S. team and in three Olympics, said he thinks many skiers who gave up an education to pursue the dream, and didn't achieve it, "look back with bitterness."

But he said a change to compete in the World Cup with its increasing prestige and financial reward is a definite reason to make the effort.

"For guys who are first or second, it's a pretty easy decision," he said. "If you're in a gray area, you're always faced with a difficult decision."

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